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**OPENING STATEMENT  
BY  
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA  
MEDIA ROUNDTABLE WITH  
VICE ADMIRAL SCOTT SWIFT AND REAR ADMIRAL THOMAS  
CARNEY**

**Hotel Radisson  
Sunday, September 16**

Good afternoon to my many friends from the media ... and thank you for joining us for this historic occasion marking a new height in military relations between America and Bangladesh.

Before we begin, I must share a personal note. My colleagues and I today have heavy hearts as we mourn the murder of my counterpart in Libya, Ambassador Chris Stevens, and three of our colleagues there, as well as the injury of numerous Libyan security personnel who tried to protect our colleagues.

This murderous attack was more than an attack on innocent American diplomats and their Libyan security personnel; it was an attack on all who support tolerance, on all who support respect for others, on all who support resolution of differences without resort to violence.

I wish to convey my deepest gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for its condolences and for its efforts to ensure the safety of the U.S. Mission here and its staff. I wish, too, to thank the many, many Bangladeshis who have expressed to me and other members of the Embassy staff their sadness over this outrageous act of violence, which simply has no justification. I am deeply touched by these thoughtful sentiments. I am, indeed, deeply touched by these expressions of grief over the senseless loss of innocent lives.

As we today mourn the loss of our colleagues in Benghazi, we also rejoice that the partnership between America and Bangladesh grows ever stronger to the benefit of the people of both nations.

I am today so pleased to have with me the Commander of the Seventh Fleet Vice Admiral Scott Swift, who is based in Japan ... not Chittagong, as a spurious video concocted in India would have you believe. I am honored to also have with us Rear Admiral Thomas Carney, Commander of the Western Pacific Logistics Group and Commander of Task Force 73; Admiral Carney is based in Singapore. I will introduce both more fully in a moment.

You may be wondering why we have two American admirals in town.

The answer is simple: Vice Admiral Swift and Rear Admiral Carney are here as further evidence of the ever deepening military-to-military relationship between America and Bangladesh.

This relationship, this partnership has already yielded great benefits in helping the Bangladesh Navy and the Bangladesh Coast Guard improve maritime security and better protect the nation against the threats of terrorism, piracy and trafficking of arms, drugs, and persons. Bangladesh can now better protect its rich maritime resources, including fish and possibly natural gas. More broadly, our deep mil-mil partnership has helped Bangladesh better secure its land borders and improve its capacity to respond to natural disasters. The partnership has also benefited Bangladesh's capacity to provide forces for international peacekeeping operations. Bangladesh, of course, is the largest contributor to PKO operations.

Specifically, Vice Admiral Swift and Rear Admiral Carney are in Bangladesh to join their Bangladeshi counterparts to help launch the Second Annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise. Let me repeat that heavy title: Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise ... this exercise goes by the acronym CARAT ... CARAT. You can easily remember this acronym; it's carat as in diamond, as in the brilliance of the wonderful U.S.-Bangladesh mil-mil partnership!

In any case, let me introduce my guests who are here to tell you all about CARAT. First, I'd like to introduce Vice Admiral Scott Swift, Commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, based in Japan. As you would expect, Vice Admiral Swift has a long, distinguished career that included command of Carrier Strike

Group Nine. I won't even begin to list his many awards as there wouldn't be any time left for them to speak to you.

I also wish to introduce Rear Admiral Thomas Carney, who is Commander, Logistics Group, Western Pacific/Commander, Task Force 73. He is based in Singapore. Rear Admiral Carney, too, has a most illustrious career, including command of several ships, and a collection of prestigious awards. I was most impressed to see that Rear Admiral Carney was an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy and a graduate from the National Defense University, where I was a professor ... one of my most favorite postings ... I so love teaching.

Vice Admiral Swift ...

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