

**Presentation by  
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**“To Bid Farewell to Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa, Defense Attaché  
and Major Hamed Althawadi, Assistant Defense Attaché”**

We gather today to bid farewell to my colleague in the Defense Office, **Commander, Bahrain Royal Special Forces, Sheikh Ahmed bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa** and his assistant, **Major Hamed Althawadi**.

**Commander Sheikh Ahmed**, one way or another, you have left your mark on this Embassy. Your departure will leave a considerable void and we have many good memories. We will remember you for your spontaneity and generosity –going to the IHOP (International House of Pancakes) on Rockville Pike just won’t be the same. We will remember you for being helpful -- anytime my office has come to you for assistance – you and your staff have always come through for us. Your referrals for the steering committee on the U.S.-Bahrain FTA (business) Coalition proved to be invaluable. Most of all, we shall remember you for being a great person to be around and a true team player in every sense of the word. It is people like you who make work more enjoyable and worthwhile. Sheikh Ahmed we will truly miss you. We will also miss Major **Hamed Althawadi**.

We are most pleased that you will be starting a new chapter on the road of life and we hope that wherever that road leads you and whatever comes your way you and your families will be happy, healthy and successful.

Please do not forget that you leave many friends here and that we will always be available to assist you should you need our help. Someone once said that a friend is someone who brings out the best in you. Sheikh Ahmed, I personally can say that you have been that kind of friend, and I, and I know that I am not alone, am the better for knowing you.

Today is really not goodbye, because I know that we will be seeing you again in Washington, D.C. or in Bahrain. Please do not be a stranger and let us hear from you once in a while with your news. We hope and pray that the days ahead are the best in every way for you and your families. In the meantime, again, we wish you all the best.

Now, I would also like to welcome to Washington, D.C. the new Defense Attaché, Major Sheikh Abdulla Mohamed Rashed Al-Khalifa and his new assistant, Major Mohamed Ali Ahmed. I have known Sheikh Abdulla since many years. I personally knew his uncles who are all prominent individuals. His aunt is a very distinguished lady in Bahrain: she was the Ambassador of Bahrain in France during the dispute with Qatar. Sheikh Abdulla, you will be here among your brothers and sisters. All of us are ready to help you to the utmost and look forward to working with you and your team. Thank you.