A Gathering of Global Air Chiefs

Photography by Paul Kennedy

For a week, the Air Force and AFA hosted the world's most senior uniformed airpower leaders.



In recognition of the centennial of flight, air chiefs of some 90 nations convened in Washington, D.C., for a conference and a chance to interact with fellow airmen. At left, the Chief of India's Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Srinivasapuram Krishnaswamy, addresses the conference. Linguists provided simultaneous translations into six languages, piped in via headsets.



Lt. Gen. Gerhard Back, Luftwaffe Chief of Staff, prepares for his talk on post-Sept. 11 air security measures in Europe. Attendees heard addresses from nine air leaders. They were, in order of appearance:

- Air Marshal Jonah Domfa Wuyep, Nigeria.
- Air Chief Marshal Kaleem Saadat, Pakistan.
- Lt. Gen. Gerhard Back, Germany.
- Gen. Carlos Alberto Rohde, Argentina.
- Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy, India.
- HRH Maj. Gen. Prince Feisal bin Al-Hussein, Jordan.
- Gen. Richard Wolsztynski, France.
- Maj. Gen. Leif Simonsen, Denmark.
- Gen. Yoshimitsu Tsumagari, Japan.





The chiefs pose for a "class reunion" photo at the conference site. The air leaders had not met as a group since 1997, when they gathered in Las Vegas to honor the 50th birthday of the US Air Force. Their host, Gen. John P. Jumper, USAF Chief of Staff, is in the center of the front row.

In the photo at right, the RAF's Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup converses with HRH Maj. Gen. Prince Feisal bin Al-Hussein of Jordan, who spoke about Gulf regional security issues. The Japanese Air Chief, Gen. Yoshimitsu Tsumagari, spoke about the changing missions of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force.







Air Chief Marshal Kaleem Saadat of Pakistan told the gathered chiefs that, despite ups and downs, Pakistan remains a "steadfast ally" of the US in the war on terror.