PRESS NOTE

The President has awarded Padma Vibhushan to General Jayanto Nath Chaudhuri, Chief of the Army Staff and Air Marshal Arjan Singh, Chief of the Air Staff.

The President has also awarded Padma Bhushan to Lieutenant General Harbakhsh Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command, Lieutenant General Kashmir Singh Katoch, General Officer Commanding, XV Corps, Lieutenant General Joginder Singh Dhillon, General Officer Commanding, XI Corps, Lieutenant General Patrick Oswald Dunn, General Officer Commanding, I Corps, Air Vice Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal, Vice Chief of Air Staff, and Air Vice Marshal Ramswamy Rajaram, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command.

(The award of Padma Vibhushan is made for exceptional and distinguished service in any field, and that of Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of a high order in any field.)

Ministry of Defence
New Delhi, Kartika 13, 1387/November 3, 1965.
General Jayanta Nath Chaudhuri, Chief of the Army Staff, was born on June 10, 1902 and received his early education in Calcutta and the Highgate School, London. He obtained a nomination to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and was commissioned in February 1928. He joined the 7th Light Cavalry.

Gen. Chaudhuri attended a course at Staff College, Quetta, in 1940 and immediately after, went overseas with the famous 5th Indian Division with whom he saw service in the Sudan, Eritrea, Abyssinia and the Western Desert. His last appointment in the Middle East was as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General in his Division. He was awarded the OBE and was three times mentioned in Despatches.

On return to India, Gen. Chaudhuri was posted as senior instructor at the Staff College, Quetta. In August 1942, he took over command of the 16th Light Cavalry, the seniormost regiment of the Indian Armoured Corps. This was the first armoured regiment to be led into battle by an Indian Commanding Officer. Under his command, it moved from Quetta to Meiktla, a 3,000 mile march to join in the fighting in Burma. Under his command, the regiment, which was later in the lead of our march on Rangoon, won great renown for its part in the fighting in Central Burma. At the end of the Burma campaign, he saw service in French Indo-China with his regiment and in Java.

With his appointment in January 1946 as Brigadier-in-Charge, Administration, Malaya Command, Gen. Chaudhuri was the third Indian to become Brigadier in the Indian Army. In 1946, he was selected to command the Indian Victory Contingent to London. Again a year later, he went to England to attend a course at the Imperial Defence College, one of the first two Indian officers to attend it. On his return to India in November 1947, he became Brigadier (Plans) and later Director of Military Operations and Intelligence at Army HQ. In February 1949, he was promoted Major General and became officiating Chief of the General Staff.

In May 1948, Gen. Chaudhuri took over command of the 1st Armoured Division which played a major role in the Hyderabad Operations. At the successful end of the 'Police Action' in Hyderabad, Gen. Chaudhuri was appointed Military Governor of the State in September 1948, in which office he continued till December 1948. He commanded the 1st Armoured Division until he became Adjutant General, Army HQ, in January 1953. In January 1953, he again took over as Chief of the General Staff, Army HQ. In December 1955, he left Army HQ and took over command of a Corps in the rank of Lieut General. In 1956, he headed a military delegation to China.

Gen. J. N. Chaudhuri took over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, on May 25, 1959 at Poona. As GOC-in-C, Southern Command, he was in overall command of the operations in Goa in December 1961.

General Chaudhuri took over as Chief of the Army Staff on November 20, 1962.
Air Marshal Arjan Singh, DFC, who took over as Chief of the Air Staff on August 1, 1964 brings to his job the experience of a keen operational flyer, a trusted commander and an able administrator.

In his Air Force career which started in 1939 Air Marshal Arjan Singh has flown no less than 60 different types of single and multi-engined aircraft ranging from pre-war Harms to modern Gnats and Super Constellations. Even during the Chinese aggression in 1962, he availed himself of the opportunity offered during his inspection visits to do a number of air dropping sorties in the operational areas.

Recognition of Air Marshal Arjan Singh's merit first came when he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1944 for being a "fearless and exceptional pilot with a perfect knowledge of his specialised branch of tactical reconnaissance and as an inspiring squadron commander." In 1945 he was given command of the I.F display flight which toured round India giving demonstrations at various cities.

Another historic occasion in the Chief of Air Staff's flying career was his leading the formation flypast over the Red Fort in New Delhi on August 16, 1947, when the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, unfurled the Indian National Flag for the first time at the historic Fort. Air Marshal Arjan Singh also has the distinction of having led the Republic Day flypast for seven years. In one of these, 110 piston and jet aircraft participated, the largest number up-to-date.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh was born on April 15, 1919, at Lyalpur. He was educated at Montgomery, now in West Pakistan, and later at the Government College, Lahore. He left the college in 1938 on being selected for pilots' training at Cranwell, U.K., which he joined in August of the same year. He was commissioned in the Indian Air Force in December 1939 and saw action in the North West Frontier, there he began his service with the No.1 I.F Squadron.

After a short spell of service with the No.3 I.F Squadron he rejoined the No.1 Squadron in 1942 as a Flying Officer. He remained with the Squadron to command it as a Squadron Leader in the Arakan and Burma operations in 1944.

He led his Squadron on a number of straffing and reconnaissance sorties in that area.

He was promoted Wing Commander in 1945. The same year he attended a course at the Staff College, Bracknell, U.K.

Immediately after partition in August 1947, he was promoted Group Captain and given command of the Air Force Station, Jhalsa. He was posted to Air HQ as Director of Training in August 1948. In the succeeding year he was selected to attend the course at the Joint Services Staff College, Latimore, England. Soon after his return from the United Kingdom, he was promoted Air Commodore and appointed Air Officer Commanding Operational Command. In 1952 he was appointed Air Officer-in-Charge, Personnel & Organisation at Air HQ. He was repotted to Operational Command as its Air Officer Commanding and promoted Air Vice-Marshai in June 1960. His appointment was upgraded and re-designated as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Operational Command, which he held till 1961. He was thus perhaps the only officer to have held the overall command of the operational squadron of the Indian Air Force for almost seven years. After a term in Air HQ as Air Officer-in-Charge, Administration from 1961 to the end of 1962, he was...
he was appointed Deputy Chief of the Air Staff on January 1, 1963. He took over as the Vice-Chief of the Air Staff on August 5 the same year.

He is a graduate of the Imperial Defence College in the United Kingdom having successfully completed the course in 1960.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh is a well-known sportsman. In 1937, while a student of the Government College at Lahore, he was captain of the college swimming team and had to his credit four Punjab and four University records in swimming, winning the all-India one-mile swimming event in 1938. The same year, while under training as a pilot at Cranwell in the United Kingdom, he was appointed Vice-President of the swimming and athletic team. He was Chief-de-Mission of the Indian Contingent for the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh was the overall commander of the joint air training exercises "Shiksha" held in India in November 1963 with the United States Air Force, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Australian Air Force.

Air Marshal Arjan Singh was a member of the Indian Defence team which visited Washington for talks with the United States Defence officials earlier this year.

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Gen. Harbaksh moved with his unit to Rangoon in 1938 and then to Quetta in 1940 where the unit underwent training in desert and jungle warfare. The unit later moved to Malaya in 1942.

While the unit was stationed at Kuantan in Malaya, Gen. Harbaksh was ambushed by the Japanese, and got seriously wounded. He remained unconscious for two hours and was evacuated to Singapore. With the fall of Singapore, Gen. Harbaksh became prisoner-of-war. On repatriation to India in September 1945, he was posted as second-in-command to 4 Sikh Regiment at Campalpur. In April 1947, he joined Staff College course at Quetta, and on his return was posted as G-1 operations and Training, with Headquarters Eastern Command.

During J & K Operations, when Lt. Col. Ranjit Khi, Officer Commanding, 1 Sikh was killed in action, Gen. Harbaksh volunteered to take over that battalion. He was posted as second-in-command of 161 Infantry Brigade in J and K. Immediately on reaching Srinagar on October 3, he assumed the operational command of the brigade as the Brigade Commander, being wounded the previous evening, was evacuated to Delhi.

In November 7, when the two battalions of his brigade were involved in action against the invaders at Sheltal, about four miles from Srinagar, Gen. Harbaksh took charge of the battle. The battle of Sheltal, which ended in a complete rout of the enemy, proved to be a turning point in the enemy's invasion of Srinagar.

Later, when 1 Sikh suffered heavy losses of nearly 80 killed and an equal number wounded during a strong recce patrol in the Uri sector, Gen. Harbaksh again volunteered to take over command of the battalion even going down from Colonel to Lt. Colonel. While he was bringing the battalion back which had lost practically all its officers, JCOs, and NCOs, and which needed complete rehabilitation, he was ordered to deal with the situation created by the crossing of the Pakistanis into the Valley of Srinagar through a difficult and snow-covered route via Pahri-ki-Gali. After a series of battles, the enemy was chased out of the Valley even with this half-formed battalion under the command of Gen. Harbaksh.

In May 1943, Gen. Harbaksh Singh was appointed Brigade Commander. He planned and executed the advance of India's troops to Mythal involving a march of hundreds of miles over unknown and difficult terrain. Mythal was secured under his command on July 2, after an arduous but completely
successful military operation which has been described as the 'Sage of Sathwali'. This action secured the strategically important town of Sathwali. Gen. Harbaksh was awarded Vir Chakra for this operation.

In June 1948, he was appointed Deputy Commandant of the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun. He left this post in April 1949 when he was selected to lead an inter-Services scientific team to carry out a complete survey of the operations in J and K and to write out a report covering all aspects of operational and administrative problems encountered by our troops in the area.

In December 1948, Gen. Harbaksh was appointed Brigadier General Staff, Western Command, and remained in that post for four years. Later, he commanded the 16 Infantry Brigade in Jamu area, and held the appointment of Director of Infantry at army Headquarters.

In November 1957, he proceeded to U.K. to attend the Imperial Defence College. On returning in February 1958, he was promoted to command a Division. He commanded 27 and 4 Infantry Divisions in succession.

As 5 Div. Commander, he undertook a major building project in Purvapore by the name of Jyoti. In July 1961, he was posted as Chief of Staff to Western Command.

When the Chinese invaded India in October 1962, Gen. Harbaksh was moved from HQ Western Command almost overnight to take charge of the IV Corps in J&K. He was later removed to I Corps.

He took over as C-in-C Western Command in November 1964.

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Lt.-Gen. Kashmir Singh Katoch, MC, (IC-83) General Officer Commanding, XV Corps was born on July 15, 1915. He was commissioned in the Indian Army in July 1936. In Jan. 1949 he commanded a battalion of the Sikh Regiment. He was promoted as Commander of an Infantry Brigade in November 1950. He served as Brigade General Staff at a Corps HQ, & later as Inspector-General of Assam Rifles, before becoming Director of Military Operations in June 1956. In January 1958, he was promoted General Officer Commanding of an Infantry Division in the rank of Maj.-Gen. He continued as a Div Commander till November 1962 when he was appointed Director of Military Training at Army HQ. In May 1963, Lt.-Gen. Katoch was appointed Adjutant-General at Army HQ in the rank of Lt.-General. He became General Officer Commanding of a Corps in November 1963 and continues in that capacity till today.

Gen. Katoch was awarded Military Cross decoration during operations in Italy in 1944. He attended Staff College course in 1945 and IDC Course in the U.K. in 1961.

November 9, 1965.
Lt. Gen. Patrick Oswald Dunn, (IC-193) General Officer Commanding, 1 Corps was born on May 25, 1911, and was commissioned in the Indian Army on July 15, 1938. He commanded a Sarka battalion in November 1946 in the rank of Lt. Colonel. In January 1949, he became officiating commander of an Infantry Brigade. He held various other appointments such as Instructor, Defence Services Staff College, Deputy Director, Military Training, army HQ. Brigadier General Staff, HQ Western Command, Commandant Infantry School, before becoming Chief of Staff at HQ Southern Command in the rank of Maj. General in September 1961. From December 1962 to January 1964, Gen. Dunn commanded an Infantry Division. He was appointed Deputy Chief of General Staff at Army HQ in January 1964, and Director of Staff Duties in January 1965. In April 1965, he led the Indian forces in Kutch. In May 1965, he was promoted General Officer Commanding of a Corps in the rank of Lt. Gen.

Gen. Dunn graduated in arts and later did law from Cambridge University. He also attended Staff College course at Camberley in U.K. in 1945.

November 9, 1965.
Lt. Gen. J.S. Dhillon

Lt. Gen. Jorindar Singh Dhillon (IC-177), General Officer Commanding, AJ Corps was born on November 19, 1913, and was commissioned in the Indian Army on February 1, 1936.

In February 1943, Gen. Dhillon commanded General Engineer Group and became Commander of an Infantry Brigade in December 1943. He held several appointments such as Brigadier Engineer Staff in Engineer-in-Chief’s Branch, Director of Technical Development in HQ’s Branch, and Director of Supplies and Equipment at Army HQ before becoming Maj. Gen. in-charge of Administration in Western Command in the rank of Major General in January 1955. In September 1960, he was appointed GOC of an Infantry Division and later in October 1961 he was appointed Deputy Chief of General Staff at Army HQ. Gen. Dhillon was promoted as a Corps Commander in the rank of Lt. Gen. in November 1963, and continues in that capacity till today.


November 9, 1965
Air Vice Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal was born at Ludhiana (Punjab) in December 1916. He was educated in Delhi and London, where he graduated from King's College. He was preparing for the bar at the Inns of Court when studies were interrupted by World War II.

A.V.M. Lal learnt to fly as a hobby in 1933. On the out-break of war he volunteered for air force service and was commissioned in the I.A.F. in November 1939. He was a navigation and flying instructor at No.1 Service Flying Training School and No.152 Operational Training Unit, before being posted to No.7 Squadron in October 1943.

The squadron, equipped with dive-bomber aircraft, was part of the 71 Group which in 1944 supported General Wingate's long-range penetration brigades in Burma and helped in relieving the siege of Imphal. A.V.M. (then Squadron Leader) Lal assumed command of the squadron in June 1944 and, having been re-equipped with fighters, took it into Burma for a second tour early in 1945. Serving in the tactical reconnaissance role, the squadron operated in close support of the Army all the way from North Burma to Rangoon. For his part in the operations of 1944 and 1945 A.V.M. Lal was mentione in despatches and awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

At the end of the war, A.V.M. Lal was absorbed into the permanent cadre of the I.A.F. After Independence he did a course at the R.A.F. Staff College,里程碑, and held several senior appointments including those of Director of Plans at Air Headquarters, Deputy Secretary (Military) to the Cabinet and Air Officer Commanding Training Command. He was also a member of several Government Missions abroad. While lending a team to evaluate new aircraft in 1954 he became one of the first pilots of the I.A.F. to fly faster than the speed of sound.

In November 1957 his services were loaned to the Indian Airlines Corporation, of which he was General Manager for five years. He was concurrently a Member of the Board of Directors of I.C. and Air Indi. It was during this period that the I.A.C. showed its first profits and began the modernisation of its fleet, lending up to the present-day Corvalla.

Since returning to the Air Force in 1963, A.V.M. Lal has held the post of Air Officer in charge of Maintenance at Air Headquarters, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command and is now Vice Chief of the Air Staff. He continues to be an active pilot on all types of service aircraft.

November 9, 1965.
Air Vice Marshal R. Rajaram, DFC

Air Vice Marshal R. Rajaram, DFC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, was born at Maturi in 1917. While still a school student, he took up flying with the Madras Flying Club in 1933 and qualified for his civil licence. He graduated from the Presidency College, Madras, in 1936.

AW Rajaram was commissioned in the I.A.F. in November, 1938. He led the I.A.F. Flight to Houlmein in 1941, which was the first element of the service then consisting of Anaxes and Vapitis, to no overseas during the last war. After the fall of Burma, AW Rajaram came back to India and converted to Hurricanes, thereafter being posted to the No.6 I.I.F. Squadron.

He participated in the Inpahl and Broken operations from 1943 to 1945. In 1944 he was given command of the No.1 Squadron which, till then, had been in command of the present Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal (then Sqn.Ldr.) Arjan Singh.

AW Rajaram was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "courage, determination and leadership" and for being "most accomplished tactical reconnaissance pilot" during the air operations on the Inpahl front.

In 1948 he was promoted Group Captain and given command of the Air Force Station, Tanagar—a major technical ground training establishment. A graduate of the A.I.F. Staff College and the Imperial Defence College in England, AW Rajaram has also commanded the Air Force Station, Pathan and the No.2 Air Force Academy, now known as the Air Force Flying College, at Jodhpur. On being granted the rank of Air Commodore in 1958, he was posted to a senior staff appointment at the Operational Command (now Western Air Command). He was a member of the Senior Directing Staff of the National Defence College in the rank of Air Vice Marshal from February 1960 to December 1962, when he was made Air Officer Commanding, No.1 Group. In June 1963 when the existing command structure of the Air Force was changed, AW Rajaram was made OC-in-C of the reconstituted Eastern Air Command. In August 1963, he came to Air Headquarters as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. He assumed charge of his present post last year.

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