



# SPEECH

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## **Speech by Commander, Air Force School, Colonel Joe Kua at the Presentation of the "Certificate of Performance" to RSAF Graduands of Aerospace Engineering & Management Course**

01 Jun 2002

Deputy Principal of Singapore Polytechnic, senior staff members of Singapore Polytechnic, graduands, distinguish guests, ladies and gentlemen, a very good morning to all of you.

First of all, let me extend my heartiest congratulations to all the 18 graduands today. You have the distinction of being the first batch to graduate from this Aerospace Engineering and Management Course under one of the most prestigious study awards, CLASS (Continuous Learning Academic Study Scheme), a key initiative delivered under the New Partnership review for SAF Warrant Officers and Specialists Corps.

The New Partnership is underpinned by the belief that to attract, retain and elicit the best of our people on a sustained basis. We must not only pay you well, but also provide you with a challenging career and opportunity to develop and grow.

Although most of you have not returned to school for many years, you have proven that age is of no barrier in our continuous quest for new knowledge. Also, despite that two-thirds of you are without the Technical Diploma, your attitude in learning is certainly well embodied in all of you. I am heartened by your spirit of learning and team excellence through group studies to face the heavy demands of this course.

You have once again demonstrated that with hard work, perseverance and commitment, a 100% pass rate with flying colors is an achievable goal. Your efforts and time invested in study over the last one year, in having to maintain a good balance between family and work, has finally borne the fruits of your labor.

You should be proud of your excellent achievements. With your successful completion of this course, you can now put your knowledge and experiences gained into practice. I am sure you

are now able to demonstrate analytical and problem solving skills with ease, communicate effectively on technical and management matters, implement safe operating and investigative procedures for failures analysis confidently and finally, participate in any project implementation successfully.

Learning does not just stop here. With the longer career under the New Partnership, it is important that you continue to receive relevant training at the correct interval to prepare you for upcoming challenges. Your total training roadmap would have been worked out to allow optimum utilization of your acquired knowledge.

The new Millennium is affected by rapid changes as our global and regional environment becomes more complex and challenging, driven largely by the innovation, technology and proliferation of IT. Newer and more sophisticated aircraft and weapon systems will replace the current ones. This will require updated skill sets that may require maintenance flexibility. In this modern IT age, the way work is carried out will change. The way knowledge is captured and how training is provided will also change. One has to learn, unlearn and relearn. In this aspect, the RSAF strongly supports "Lifelong Learning" and it is important we adopt "Lifelong Learning" to face the new challenges ahead.

I would like to thank Singapore Polytechnic for the successful completion of this 1st Aerospace Engineering & Management Course for the RSAF. This well structured course, which focuses on two key aspects of Engineering and Engineering Management, has helped to fill a training gap for the RSAF. The feedback has been very encouraging and our RSAF graduands have certainly benefited from it. It is certainly an honor to have a professional institute of higher learning as our training partner.

The successful completion of this course will lead us a step closer towards building a First Class Air Force with World Class People.

Finally, to the 18 warrant officers in this pioneer batch, let me once again congratulate you for the successful completion of the course. I am sure this course has prepared you adequately to meet the challenges in your next stage of your career with RSAF. I wish all of you every success in your future endeavor.

Thank You.

**News Release:**

- First Batch of RSAF Students Complete Aerospace Course (Document No: MINDEF\_20020601001.pdf)