

AIR ENGINEERING TRAINING INSTITUTE'S
1ST MECHANICS PASSING OUT PARADESPEECH BY DR LEE CHIAW MENG, MINISTER FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

18.7.75 1700 hrs

1 Today's graduation ceremony is indeed a red-letter day not only for the 250 graduands but also for the Air Engineering Training Institute, for it marks the successful completion of the first training course conducted by the Institute. Let me congratulate all concerned.

2 Being the first batch to undergo this training, you are very much the pioneers in this field of endeavour. Like all pioneers, the task that lies before you is a difficult, though not an unenviable, one. You have been entrusted with the responsibility of setting and upholding a high standard in the performance and discharge of your duty. It is only through example and hard work that you can help carve a name for your Institute, and gain for it, a reputation worthy of the position it occupies in the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

3 This you can surely do. You have both the behaviour discipline of men in uniform and the mental discipline of skilled technicians. What you have acquired is not merely confined to basic knowledge and skills so necessary in your work as aircraft mechanics. The training has also provided you with a sense of discipline and commitment that is characteristic of our various military establishments. These, together with the proper work attitude that your instructors have so painstakingly promoted, will undoubtedly hold you in good stead in your future life.

4 For obvious reasons, quality work is demanded of you. Unlike other similar professions, your output needs to be absolutely precise and exact; in a word, faultless. In the course of your work, you will be required to exercise initiative and at times, make prompt decisions. There is no room for mistakes however minute these may be, for in your hands rests the safety of those who fly the aircrafts serviced and maintained by you.

5 Your function in the Republic of Singapore Air Force may not be glamorous but is certainly of immeasurable importance. May I therefore exhort you to take pride in all that you do, and at all times, excel in your work. Take advantage of the opportunities for further training that come your way, so that you can perform even better.

6 Finally, may I remind you that, being the pioneers of a new breed of workers in our young Air Force, you will be under constant scrutiny by your instructors, supervisors and those who come after you. I am confident that, by your example and that of its future graduates, the Air Engineering Training Institute will be another success story in our Republic.