

SPEECH BY MR JIEK YEUN THONG, MINISTER FOR CULTURE,
AT THE COMMISSIONING PARADE OF INFANTRY OFFICER
CADETS AT QUEENSTOWN SPORTS COMPLEX ON 14 SEPTEMBER
AT 1730 HOURS

You have by now an understanding of military life, its ethos and its responsibilities. Military life be it for the regular or the national servicemen for so long as you are serving the SAF, demands a sense of mission if a job is to be well done. It is in many ways similar to a vocation. As an officer you need to live up to this expectation if you are to fulfil your role as officers effectively.

I would expect that you will attempt to apply whatever you have learnt as an officer cadet diligently. You must have initiative, so that things get done swiftly for the efficiency of your unit. You must learn to improvise where things or facilities are not available. You must have the attitude of mind that says "I want to get things done and done well". This is essential if you are to train your platoon to a high standard of competence, morale and discipline. As officers I expect you to do your best in everything because your men will look upon you as examples.

This same obligation, sense of mission and ability to innovate and improvise will stand you in good stead even in civilian life at a later stage.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for successful completion of the Officer Cadet Course.

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