

EMBARGOED TILL AFTER DELIVERY  
PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GRADUATION PARADE FOR THE 12TH COURSE,  
FLYING TRAINING SCHOOL

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1 I want to congratulate all the members of No. 12 Course who have been awarded the RSAF Pilot's Brevet today. This is an important day in your life. Your parents, relatives, friends and MINDEF have every reason to be proud of you. By now, it is common knowledge that the training for these coveted 'Wings' is a long and arduous one. Your course started training in April 1975 and today, nearly one and a half years later, only the nine of you remain out of a total of 26 candidates.

2 Those of you who have done well today can be doubly proud of your achievement because you have shown that you are the best among such high calibre officers. However, you cannot afford to rest on your laurels because everyone will look on you as an example, and you will have to work hard to maintain the position you now have achieved.

3 The awarding of the wings to you merely marks the half way point in your training. Most of you will join the Hunter and Skyhawk Squadrons to continue your training as fighter pilots. Your next training will be even more demanding, and you will have to work even harder to prove yourselves.

4           Having achieved a certain training standard in itself is insufficient. There is a need for you to become a fully operational pilot, firstly as an individual and secondly as an integrated member of your squadron and able to perform the tasks which may be allocated you in the near future. It is vital that each and every pilot in the RSAF be prepared and ready for the day when the vital test - the fight for the freedom and security of Singapore - comes about. It is with this in mind that MINDEF has always insisted that we select only the best to be pilots and I wish to stress that we will continue to do so.

5           We now have our own national qualified flying instructors and the facilities to train our own instructors locally and it becomes even more important for you to assist the new instructors in maintaining the good example and high standards that are expected of our air force.

6           However, we must not forget that the staff of the Ground Training Squadron deserve a large measure of credit for the successful completion of another course. Ground Training, in all its aspects, is essential. The standard achieved by No. 12 Course reflects well on the quality of the ground instructors - both officers and NCOs. After all, they are part of the team.

7           Finally, I must compliment you all on the high standard of turnout and drill. This is the first Wings Parade in which the new blue uniform has been on show and your bearing and appearance can be seen to be a credit to the Republic of Singapore Air Force. Well done!