

Singapore Government

30 JUN 1980

PRESS RELEASE

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05-2/80/06/21

**SPEECH BY MR BERNARD CHEN, MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE AND
ACTING MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AT THE 24TH INTAKE VIGILANTE
CORPS PASSING-OUT PARADE AT THE POLICE ACADEMY
ON SATURDAY, 21 JUNE 1980 AT 5.30 PM**

I am pleased to officiate at this 24th Intake Vigilante Corps Passing-out Parade this evening. On parade are contingents representing eight VC Districts and a ceremonial guard-of-honour mounted by trainees in the Senior Leaders' Course. This parade marks the completion of Basic Course by 1,177 National Servicemen enlisted in January this year.

Among those passing out this evening are 126 Senior Leaders who will advance into the second six months of their officers' training to fully develop their potential as leaders to enable them to be more effective in discharging their duties when they are posted to units. Other trainees who have completed their Basic Course will in the next six months undergo further training to qualify them for selection to the various components of the Corps.

More than half of this intake will join the Community Security Force whose members have been patrolling the streets and housing estates performing their primary role of crime prevention. Others will be deployed to augment the regular firemen in the Auxiliary Fire Services. Strong swimmers will be trained for lifeguard duties at public beaches and swimming pools. Whatever duties you are assigned, all of you will ultimately become members of the Civil Defence Service. In emergency, all members are expected to be able to perform civil defence functions such as fighting fires and rendering first aid to the injured.

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To maintain the high standard of performance and sustain the interest of the men, the Corps must have sufficient leaders to motivate and guide their men through their training and in the performance of their respective duties. Part of this requirement was fulfilled recently by a promotion exercise for the officers and other ranks. More potential leaders have now been identified and given ranks matching their ability. Ranks alone, however, will not make good leaders. Officers must develop a greater sense of commitment to the Corps. Above all, they must be serious in their training and purposeful in their work in order that they can give off the best to maintain the Corps' standards and improve upon it.

I would like to congratulate those who have been awarded Certificates of Merit for their outstanding performance and I wish all of you success in your future endeavours.

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