

It has been observed, for instance, that apart from being "physically and mentally toughened up" during national service, many young men have also acquired a feeling of self-assurance and self-confidence, which they may not otherwise have possessed. Thus many young men from the non-English stream who, before national service, hardly dare to speak any English in public, have learnt during their national service to speak English with confidence.

The initial period of national service, of course, will be the most trying period, since it will mean for most of you, some more some less, a rather abrupt transition from your family environment to a military existence. Whatever family life-styles you have left behind, you will find the disciplined and regimental programme of the armed forces rather strange. However, all of you can cope with what is required of you. In fact, on the basis of the past observations, by the time of Run-out-date (ROD), when the compulsory period of national service is over, you will feel yourselves to be new persons and looking back, you will say that this period of national service is not so bad after all.

For you parents and friends who are gathered here today to see these young men off, I can assure you that they will be well looked after. For you young men who are being called up, I assure you if you enter this service with a positive outlook, you will find that national service can be a very enjoyable and rewarding period of your life. I wish you all the best. From the service and dedication of citizens like you, we can proudly proclaim
Majula Singapura!

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