

Singapore Government

PRESS RELEASE

Information Division, Ministry of Culture, City Hall, Singapore 0617 - tel: 378181 ext. 352, 353, 354 / 362207 / 362271.

Acc. No.	NARC
19 C/12	77

MC/DEC/37/79 (Environment)

SPEECH BY MR CHOR YEOK ENG, SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
AT THE 23RD INTAKE VIGILANTE CORPS PASSING-OUT PARADE
HELD AT THE POLICE ACADEMY ON SATURDAY, 22 DECEMBER '79 AT 5.30 PM

I am pleased to officiate at this 23rd Intake VC Passing-out Parade this evening. I am told that you who are on parade this evening are from the 8 VC Districts and you represent 1539 National Servicemen who are from the 23rd Intake in the VC. The guard-of-honour this evening is mounted by the Senior Leaders of this Intake. The initial six months training you have only been instructed in the fundamentals; further specific training is therefore necessary to develop the necessary special skills you will require to serve in the various components of the Corps such as the Marine Units, the Cultural Units, the Community Security Force and the Civil Defence Units.

In the past six months, you have attended a two-week residential training course at the VC Camp in Nee Soon. It was during this period that you have gained more knowledge and training. The process of training, working, playing and eating together in the camp enabled you to develop the esprit-de-Corps so necessary in a disciplined organisation. In order that you will not be out of pocket because of your in-camp training you will be paid make-up pay for the period. This will be credited into your POSB accounts in a few weeks' time. It is realised that this will cause some inconvenience to some, hence the VC has improved the system and will pay future batches attending in-camp by cheques on the last day of their in-camp.

Basic training in the Vigilante Corps is conducted in English, Chinese or Malay. Hitherto dialects have been used by the Chinese stream Instructors and trainees. In line with the

Government policy, I am pleased to note that Mandarin has now replaced the various Chinese dialects. I, therefore, urge all Chinese trainees who are on parade today to continue to use Mandarin when they converse with their Instructors and fellow National Servicemen. To assist those Chinese trainees who are not fluent in Mandarin, the Corps can conduct lessons similar to those broadcast over the Radio for them during training hours. In this way all Chinese National Servicemen who come into contact with the public in the course of their duties will in due course be able to communicate in Mandarin.

The Vigilante Corps has a strength of 53,975 comprising 53,153 National Servicemen and 822 volunteers. With such a vast manpower the Corps should strive for higher standards of performance and achievements. I am pleased to note that the first batch of officers of Assistant Group Leader rank and above have just completed a newly designed six-day officers' course at the VC Camp today. This course I am informed will assist them to develop their leadership qualities so that they will become more effective and versatile in discharging their duties. These residential officers' course will continue to be conducted for men in the 2nd and 7th years of service. Officers who have been through this course should therefore be able to lead their subordinates effectively.

Finally, I wish to congratulate all of you on your splendid turnout this evening, and especially those who have been awarded Certificates of Merit for their high standard of performance. I also wish all of you success in your endeavours.

#####