



SPEECH BY

**CAPTAIN (RTD) DATO PADUKA ABD RAHMAN BIN
BEGAWAN MUDIM DATO PADUKA HAJI BAKAR, RBN
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

**COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE 7
CLOSING CEREMONY**

**THURSDAY
21 MUHARRAM 1439
12 OCTOBER 2017**

**ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES DEFENCE ACADEMY
KAMPUNG TANAH JAMBU**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Alhamdulillah Rabbi 'Alamin. Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Anbiya'i
Wal Mursalin, Sayyidina Muhammadin Wa'ala Alihi Wa Sohbihi Ajma'in.**

NICETIES

- Commandant of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Defence Academy
- Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force
- Service Commanders and Deputy Permanent Secretaries
- Deputy Director of the Internal Security Department
- Graduates of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course
Seven
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

A very good afternoon.

INTRODUCTION

I am truly honored to return back here today and join you for the closing ceremony of the seventh Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course (CSC). This is my third interaction with the graduates; the first being my talk on Brunei Darussalam's defence policy back in June; and of course more recently during your graduation dinner just last night.

COMMENDATION

Let me take this opportunity to firstly extend my deepest congratulations to all students on your successful completion of the course. I am also grateful to the Commandant of Defence Academy and to the members of the Directing Staff of the CSC, for all your hard work and dedication, which has contributed towards the conclusion of yet another highly successful course. A huge thanks also to Massey University for the continuous support to the CSC.

VALUE OF THE COURSE

As you reach the end of your course, it is the perfect time to reflect back not only on the countless wonderful memories made on this journey for but also on the value and significance of this course to you, our organisations as well as our countries.

I very much hope that this course has been of great value towards developing your leadership abilities as well as in providing further appreciation of the dual importance of strategic and operational understanding of the security environment.

The nature of the current security environment demands leaders to possess an analytical mind capable of grasping today's complexities, as well as familiarity with current international affairs and latest developments in military doctrines and technologies.

This concoction of expectations is no easy task but I am confident that the Defence Academy has tailored its instructions to meet these requirements and made tremendous efforts in ensuring that you acquire the right knowledge, skills and tools as you advance on in your respective careers in which I believe some of you will go as far as to become the leaders of tomorrow.

In addition to the enrichment of your professional and academic competencies, I am certain that this course has provided you opportunities to form new or build upon existing ties of friendship and networks, which I believe is the underlying theme of your memorabilia booklet for this year's CSC.

The inclusion of international students in the Command and Staff Course, as well as the diversity of the Directing Staff, are amongst the key steps in enhancing relations with the military and members of other defence and security forces. Hence, I am pleased to witness the continued presence of our friends from Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and the United States, as well as our local security agencies.

You have made immense contributions to the learning process, broadening horizons, listening to and learning different perspectives, and in turn, promoting understanding and deepening trust between nations and its defence forces.

These will go a long way in giving tremendous value not only for the benefit of developing military-to-military relations but also consequently towards serving our mutual goal of preserving and enhancing peace and stability across all systems – nationally, regionally and globally.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Once again, my congratulations and best wishes to our graduates who will be embarking to another new chapter in your career. I urge you to exercise the lessons that you have learnt and experiences that you have gained from this course. With the possibility of carrying more demanding tasks in the future, it calls for the highest standards of leadership, which I am confident the course has prepared you for.

To your spouses and families, I commend you all for your patience and understanding. I hope you will cherish the memories that you have made in Brunei Darussalam, especially in the social activities conducted by the college.

For those who will be leaving us soon, I hope you will bring back only good memories of your time in Brunei. I wish you all a safe journey to your respective homes and may there be another occasion for your next visit in the near future.

For the time you have stayed in Brunei, we hope our international friends have cherished the life-enriching experience of our culture and understand how the value of our tradition has created a unique living environment, built on mutual trust and most importantly, kinship. As for our local students, I am proud of your continued patriotism and service to our nation.
