



SPEECH BY

YANG BERTHORMAT

PEHIN DATU LAILARAJA MAJOR GENERAL (RTD) DATO PADUKA SERI

HAJI AWANG HALBI BIN HAJI MOHD YUSSOF

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF

COHORT 9 OF THE COMMAND AND STAFF COURSE

DEFENCE ACADEMY

THURSDAY,

11 SAFAR 1441 / 10 OCTOBER 2019

AUDITORIUM

DEFENCE ACADEMY,

ROYAL BRUNEI ARMED FORCES

KG TANAH JAMBU

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

And A Very Good Morning

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى أَشْرَفِ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ

سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

Yang Mulia

Col Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan

Commandant

Royal Brunei Armed Forces Defence Academy

Yang Mulia

Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Aminan bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud

Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces,

Yang Mulia

Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohd. Irwan bin Haji Hambali

Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force

Yang Mulia

Datin Dr. Dayang Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya

Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz

Vice Chancellor of University Brunei Darussalam,

Your Excellencies

Ambassadors and High Commissioners

Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office,

Defence Executive Committee of the Ministry of Defence,

Service Commanders and Joint Force Commander, Directors and Commandants,

Director of Institute of Policy Studies

*and Acting Director Institute for Leadership, Innovation and Advancement Universiti
Brunei Darussalam,*

Defence Advisers and Attaches,

Graduates of the 9th Royal Brunei Armed Forces Command and Staff Course,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be here again, to speak at the graduation ceremony of the Cohort 9 of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' Command and Staff Course 2019.
2. I thank the Commandant of the Academy for his kind invitation and beautiful opening remarks a while ago.
3. This momentous occasion reminds me of my time graduating from the prestigious Command and Staff College in Quetta, Pakistan 30 years ago.
4. The graduation today is truly a special occasion to acknowledge another significant milestone of course participants military career. The 40-week

long demanding and challenging course undoubtedly a rewarding one in fulfilling course participants personal and career progression.

5. On that note, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduates for successfully completing this important career course. Speaking through experience, your success today would have not been possible without the unstinting support of many including your spouses and family. They deserve a special kind of appreciation. I join you all in expressing my heartiest appreciation for their patience, perseverance and understanding that gave course participants the strength to overcome the challenges of the course.

6. I am happy to learn that Major Hamad Rashed Alsoror from Saudi Arabia and Major Indra Andriansyah from Indonesia while achieving their 'passed staff college or 'psc' qualification but also have special fond memories of their stint at the Academy with their new arrivals 'born in Brunei' as an addition to their respective family. Alhamdulillah – Praise to Allah the Al-Mighty. Congratulations to both.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Since its inauguration in 2010, the Command and Staff Course has evolved and progressed with the passage of time. As highlighted by the Commandant, this year marked another significant milestone for the Staff College with the smooth transition of the academic provider from New Zealand's Massey University to University Brunei Darussalam. This transition symbolises the important breakthrough in the progression of the Command

and Staff Course as it carries the significance of inheriting the past and investing for the future.

8. University Brunei Darussalam (being local) would certainly be an ideal and invaluable strategic partner to bring Defence Academy to a greater height in its strive to be recognized as a world-class professional military centre of excellence in the region. It is pleasing to note that 59 (35 locals) of CSC graduates have embarked on Master Programme and three officers are currently pursuing this programmes in Universiti Brunei Darussalam.
9. I note with interest that the Defence Academy of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces has initiated the Mentorship Programme Initiative (MPI) for the local students of CSC 9. This initiative is indeed appropriate and timely to support the Royal Brunei Armed Forces endeavour in developing and nurturing its officers to become more effective and responsible leaders particularly, as the armed forces is advancing to its 60th Anniversary in 2021 and in our journey to achieving Brunei Darussalam Vision 2035.
10. In His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Defence Minister and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces titah (royal address) during the Royal Brunei Armed Forces 58th Anniversary this year has called on the country's defence institutions to create a ***“more holistic defence strategy”*** to reflect new strategic challenges in the region. His Majesty also highlighted

that the complexities of transnational crimes such as radicalism, marine and cybersecurity issues have become more difficult to tackle.

11. In my lecture to the CSC 9/2019 course participants in May this year, I highlighted among others the importance of studying and being sensitive to the global contemporary strategic and security environment; the role of ASEAN through the ARF and ADMM Plus dialogues in addressing complex security issues; and the need to have a more define defence strategy in the new Defence White Paper 2021.
12. In this context, the Defence Academy is one of the avenues that would provide relevant education and training that addresses uncertain fast-changing global and regional landscape and its complex strategic challenges.
13. The many lectures, syndicate discussions and workshops in the course modules have given the course participants opportunities to analyse, discuss and provoke their thoughts and ideas in an academic environment to formulate workplans, actions and policies.
14. A one week study tour with the theme '*Security, Stability and Prosperity*' to Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu) was aimed to provide course participants the opportunity to learn the geopolitical, geostrategy and socio-economic environment of our neighbours and region.
15. It is my pervent hope that the Academy has provided and equipped its course participants Cohort 9 of the Command and Staff Course this year in particular with the knowledge to scrutinise, think analytically and appreciate the

complex regional and global security issues. And to prepare them for higher appointments.

16. By now course participants, must have realized that in the backdrop of the changed security scenario in the present day world, role of the armed forces has become multi-dimensional. The Command and Staff College had made laudable effort in ensuring this strategic shifts to be reflected realistically in the training curriculum, hence relevant for many years to come.
17. My reminder to course participants, as you make your way out of this institution, into the 'field', as you would describe it, you have huge roles to play. You need to consolidate and understand the current state of your knowledge and to build on it, improve it, and be able to make good and correct decisions in the face of uncertainty. While at the same time leading your subordinates effectively during peacetime and in time of conflicts in the defence of your beloved country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

18. In upholding His Majesty titah during the Legislative Council Meeting early this year, I have once again emphasised on the importance of “‘*Whole-of-Nation*’ and ‘*Whole-of-Government*’ approaches. I have also outlined Defence Diplomacy as one of the three cores of defence strategy. Hence, Defence Academy remains and will continue to be one of the excellent platforms in embracing “‘*Whole-of-Nation*’ and ‘*Whole-of-Government*’ approaches as well enhancing Defence Diplomacy.

19. The presence of international students from 13 different countries this year (South Korea as a new member but we missed participants from Australia, India and United Kingdom) and an officer from the Royal Brunei Police Force (no participant from Internal Security Department this year) have provided a unique opportunity in the sharing of views and issues from many different perspectives.
20. More importantly, I trust the course participants have become close friends and have learnt much about each other's cultures, traditions and way of life. This bodes well for the future when they as the Fourth Industrial Revolution generation have to work together to address and overcome common domestic, regional and international issues.
21. I am also delighted to learn that the Australian Defence Force has awarded six RBAF officers from the previous cohorts the OBOE Endeavour Excellence Program last year. The "OBOE Endeavour Excellence Program" certainly would provide a valuable opportunity for the promising young military leaders to forge stronger links with each other and would strengthen the current Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Australian Defence Force cordial bilateral relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

22. To conclude, I would like to once again congratulate the graduates of the 9th Command and Staff Course especially to the award recipients of Overall Excellence, RBAF Commendation and Academic Excellence. With the 'pass

staff college' or PSC qualifications, I hope this will give new additional strength and confidence to the graduates as they pursue their career and life.

23. To course participants from overseas, I hope your nearly a year long stay here in Brunei Darussalam, *The Abode of Peace* and the lasting friendships you all forged during the course are useful, meaningful and rewarding. I wish all of you a safe journey back home. Brunei Darussalam now your second home is waiting for your next visit soon in the future. I wish you all the very best of luck in your future undertakings and endeavours.
24. Finally, I would like to record my special recognition and appreciation to the Commandant of the Defence Academy, the Director, Directing and supporting Staff of the Command and Staff College, for overseeing and ensuring the success of this course. I am confident and with the grace of Al Mighty Allah, the Defence Academy will continue to strive towards more significant accomplishment as it approaches its 10th anniversary in 2020 next year.

Thank you.

وبالله التوفيق والهداية والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته