

## **The Sovereign's Parade Royal Military Academy Sandhurst**

Address by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at The Sovereign's Parade Royal Military Academy Sandhurst on Friday 15 April 2011

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Alhamdulillah Rabbil 'Aalameen, Wabihee Nasta'eenu 'Alaa Umuriddunya Waddeen, Wassalatu Wassalamu 'Ala Asyrafil Mursaleen Sayyidina Muhammaddin Wa'ala Aalihiee Wasahbihee Ajma'een, Waba'du.

The Commandant, Major-General Patrick Marriott,  
Officer Cadets of the Royal Military Academy,  
Distinguished Guests and Parents.

It gives me great pleasure to come back here to Sandhurst to have the honour once more of representing Her Majesty the Queen at this Sovereign's Parade.

I first had this honour in 1986 and I had also attended the academy as a cadet in 1966.

The links between Great Britain and my own country have always been close and I am therefore personally delighted, on Her Majesty's behalf and also as a proud parent, to bear witness to the commissioning of Course Number 102 which includes my son.

This is very much a multinational occasion.

In addition to the 188 cadets being commissioned into the British Army, there are 16 overseas cadets from 11 nations.

All of us need allies in this uncertain world and the presence of a British Garrison in my country is an example of a mutually beneficial link that is very welcome.

I would hope that your shared experiences will have forged great friendships with each other which you will value for the rest of your lives.

This has been a marvelous occasion for all involved.

I would like to congratulate you all on the excellence of today's parade.

Your turnout, your bearing and your drill have been of the highest standard.

They reflect great credit on you and your instructors.

They are in the best traditions of this academy, and I am sure that all your parents and your loved ones are very proud of you.

I must commend your instructors and the staff of the academy.

I know that the British Army places its best instructors here at Sandhurst to teach the cadets.

They too have worked hard to get to this point and they deserve your thanks.

Today is a day for celebration and for the satisfaction of real achievement through hardships endured and demands met; you should be very proud.

Sandhurst is one of the greatest training institutions in the world.

It will have been tough at times for all of you.

But you have all achieved your objectives to be commissioned as officers into your respective armies.

I know you will look back on this day as a defining moment in your life.

As newly commissioned officers, you are carrying on the traditions that have been developed and sustained for nearly 200 years, starting with the first intake of cadets who started here in 1812, that included men who went on to fight at the Battle of Waterloo.

I would especially like to congratulate the overseas cadets.

For you, the last 12 months will have been a particular challenge.

I remember it all too well.

Maybe the challenge was the culture; the language or simply the weather.

But whatever it was, I hope that your memories of Sandhurst, like mine, will be happy ones.

I know you will be proud to be a graduate of this academy.

I hope that you will have made some life-long friends, and like me, you will come to think of the United Kingdom as your second home.

I wish you well as you go back to serve your countries.

I congratulate you on your choice of career.

There is no greater honour that can be bestowed upon you, than the trust to lead your fellow men and women in the defence of your nation.

You could not have chosen a better life – one that presents greater challenges, that demands more of you in physical and moral terms, or that offers greater reward in terms of personal fulfillment.

For all of you, the real work starts now.

Many of you will shortly find yourselves in command of soldiers on operations.

It is a sobering thought, a most serious business, but one for which you are well prepared.

I am sure that the pride of your parents today will be tinged with anxiety about your future.

Some of you will be relishing the prospect of command; some will be anxious about meeting its demands.

However, I assure you that you would not be commissioned today if you had not already demonstrated the qualities needed to succeed in command.

But don't forget that you and your soldiers need some balance in your lives and there should always be time for sport and adventure.

Today is about you and what you will do.

I salute you for your commitment and for what you have achieved.

Now march up those steps behind you with pride and style and uphold the standards of those generations that have gone before you.

I wish you success in all your future endeavours.

Thank you.

Wabillahit Taufiq Walhidayah, Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.