



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2026**

**An address by Lt. Colonel M. Hart on the commencement of the Academic Year 2026/2027**

... And We Are Back!

Every year I look forward to this moment, it means new beginnings and a fresh chance to build on what came before.

Before we look ahead, we must look back and recognise what has been achieved. To every student who sat the CSEC and CAPE examinations this year, you completed a task that demanded discipline, sacrifice and patience. Whether you wore the uniform of this Force or not, you represent the future of this country, and your effort should be recognised. To all who wrote: well done!

To our cadets among you, you did not sit those examinations alone. You carried with you the training this Force gave you: the discipline to study when it was easier not to, the patience to keep going through setbacks, and the sense of duty that told you to finish what you started. That is the result of the Four Star Training you have received term after term.

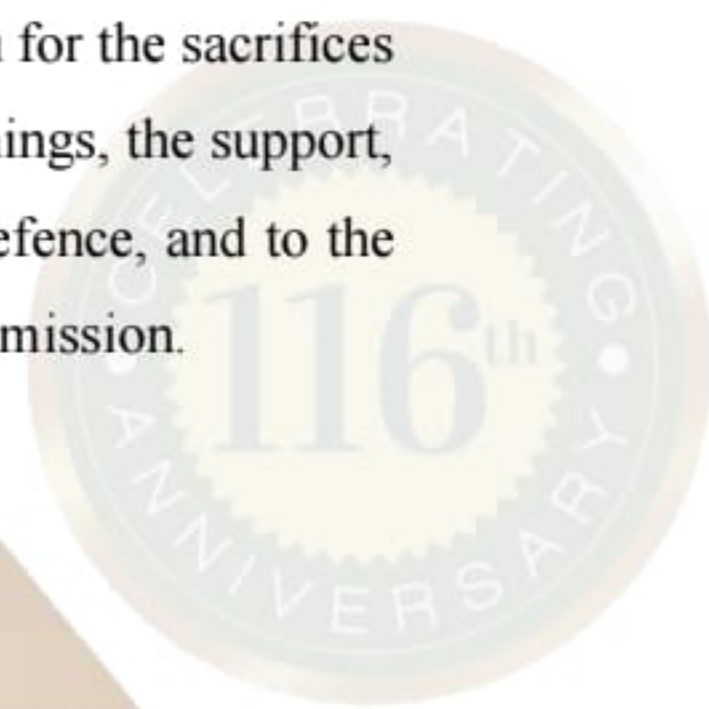
To those moving on now, to sixth form, to university, to your first job or further training, go forward with our congratulations. You carry the mark of this Force with you, whether you wear the uniform or not.

To our new recruits, the young men and women seeking to join our ranks this September, welcome.

Drill will test your patience. Field craft will test your endurance. But what you gain in return, character, confidence, the ability to lead, friendships that last, will outlast every early morning you wanted to give up.

To every cadet, young or old, new or returning, I ask three things of you as we open this academic year: Lead with integrity. Lead with excellence. Lead with discipline.

None of what this Force accomplishes happens alone. To our parents, thank you for the sacrifices you make so your children can wear this uniform with pride, for the early mornings, the support, and the trust you place in us. To the Honourable Wayne Sturge, Minister of Defence, and to the Ministry of Defence, thank you for your continued support of this Force and its mission.



I must also recognise our Cadet Force Steel Orchestra, whose talent and hard work have helped carry this Force to greater national recognition. You have put the TTCF on stages it had not stood on before and we are proud of you.

I also thank our Battalion Commanders, our officers, our Warrant Officers and Senior Rates, our dynamic Public Affairs team and of no lesser importance our school principals. Your leadership and support are the backbone of everything this Force achieves.

In closing I ask us all to let this academic year be one where every cadet of the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force stands taller, works harder and leads with more integrity than the year before.

God bless you all. God bless the Trinidad and Tobago Cadet Force. God bless our nation, Trinidad and Tobago.

For God and Country!

**Marlon Hart**

Lieutenant Colonel

Deputy Commandant Ag.

