

REMARKS – WOs & SNCOs CONFERENCE 2013

Preliminaries – Protocols observed.

The Warrant Officers' and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers' Conference 2013 is being held under the Theme "**Consolidating and Modernizing the Guyana Defence Force for Total Defence**".

Total Defence – connotes the achievement of a high level of Defence and Security in Guyana. On our Borders – we must be ready to define aggression in defence of our country against the traditional threats from neighbouring countries claim of our territory (including our Exclusive Economic zone), we must also be prepared to work with other agencies of the civilian authority – Police, Customs, Immigration and the various Agencies, Commissions and Ministries to achieve social and economic security and to counter the threat to development and our existence as a developing country – transnational crimes, natural and man-made disasters, climate change, etc.

So we now come to the GDF. Here I will repeat. The GDF serves Guyana – we defend and maintain Law and Order in Guyana. We defend Guyana's Constitution and our way of life. We protect Guyana's security and our National Interests.

The GDF organises, equips and train soldiers for all types of military operations, including Joint operations with civilian agencies like the GPF, CDC, etc.

Therefore, we exist to serve the Guyanese society.

The Contemporary Operating Environment now require that we modernize – meaning to make things modern and more suited to present styles and needs. To become modern: to begin using the newest information, methods, or technology.

Therefore, according to your theme if we are to modernize the GDF for Total Defence them we must first Consolidate. Let us now look at Consolidate.

- Means to join or combine together into one thing. To make something, such as a position of power or control) stronger or more secure.

If we are to consolidate here in the GDF , I submit that you the Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned Officers has a very important role to play here. I recently opened a SLC and a PSC and soon will be opening the LSC and the terminal objective of all three courses indicate clearly “To prepare the SNCO to train and administer a Unit, Sub-unit or Platoon (as a SGT Major, Pl SGT) in peacetime and combat.

If you use the Internet go to Wikipedia and search for non-commissioned officer and read under function:

The non-commissioned officers is often referred to as “the backbone” of the armed Forces as they are the primary and most visible leaders for most military personnel. Additionally, they are the leaders primarily responsible for executing a military organisation’s mission and for training military personnel so they are prepared to execute their missions.

Important to note that you our Warrant Officers and SNCOs are our primary link between enlisted personnel and us the commissioned officers of the GDF. Your advice and guidance is particularly important for junior officers, who begin their

careers in a position of authority but generally lack practical experience. I know you have your WOs and SNCOs creed, and I expect that you read it on a regular basis and ask yourself whether you are deviating from your creed. It is a tool used to educate and remind you of your responsibilities as WOs and SNCOs.

“..... - All soldiers are entitled to outstanding leadership; I will provide that leadership. I know my soldiers and I will always place their needs above my own. I will communicate consistently with my soldiers and never leave them uninformed, so if we are to consolidate we must first commit ourselves to learning, understanding and living the Values and Standards of the GDF, its SOPs, rules and regulations, so although late, the purpose of this conference is to educate you so that you will be better positioned to lead, train and administer your platoons, sub-units and units as we seek to Modernize our GDF. That is the focus of the presentations for this conference.

Remember A focus on building cordial relationships based on open communications and empathy is a key factor here – people do not respond well to angry tones and threats.

Exemplary behavior by WOs and SNCOs is the best training that can be given to our junior NCOs and soldiers and junior officers too.

Appropriate quotations

1. We must be the change we want to see in the world – Mahatma Ghandi
2. The wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the legacy of fools – Proverbs 3:35

May your discourses over these two days be fruitful. With the powers vested in me as the 8th COS of the GDF, I hereby declare open WOs and SNCOs Conference 2013. Thank you.