

REMARKS – DEDICATION CEREMONY AIR CORPS

Retired Chiefs of Staff, and retired senior officers of the GDF, Distinguished Invitees, serving officers and ranks of the GDF and more particularly offrs and ranks, civs of Air Corps. November is our anniversary month of the GDF. This year marks our 48th Anniversary and at our Anniversary Thanksgiving service I reflected on and paid homage to the officers and men and women who served before us (in the GDF) on many previous operations in the defence and security of Guyana.

Your exemplary behavior and service are guided and shaped the conduct of the early GDF. We remain thankful for your service and it was no coincidence that we the senior leadership of the GDF had a 3 ½ hour strategic encounter with CO (ag) Air Corps Major Byrne and his team of pilots and engineers on Wed

Short term repairs to existing a/c and training of pilots – replacement of present fleet and continuation of pilot trg.

However today we are all here to honour the service of one of our senior retired officer Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence Hillary London “Larry” in the presence of his wife Donna and colleagues.

As we dedicate the former Air Corps Headquarters to its new designation in Larry’s honour ‘**Air Station London**’. This process started at the end of RADMs tenure with the constr of the wall with the new name in August/Sept. During his tour of duty as Commanding Officer Air Corps from 1979-1987 he not only had comd responsibility of 370 offrs and ranks, negotiated purchase of aircraft and

equipment, he also supervised the construction of this hangar and was instrumental in the training, recruitment and of many who are today our better pilots and engineers in Guyana, still serving in the Defence Force, and the wider world.

And the beauty of this all is that he still continue to serve Guyana in other capacities and has remained a dear friend to the GDF, being very accommodating to the styles and personality Larry's in the area of sports. Of all the Chiefs of Staff of the GDF Larry was an avid sportsman in his younger life and a successful sports administrator too. All things being equal, I will be Chief of Staff over the next 3 years and I wish to commit to the rehabilitation of the present infrastructure of ASL, the fleet replacement process and the training on a regular basis of new rotary and fixed wing pilots like you did during your service in the GDF.

Again, we thank you for your service and are all indeed happy that you, and your wife Donna, are here in person for this dedication ceremony.

Thank you and to all friends and well wishers I am grateful for your presence here today at this dedication ceremony.

Happy 48th Anniversary to each and everyone of you and long live the Guyana Defence Force.