

GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE



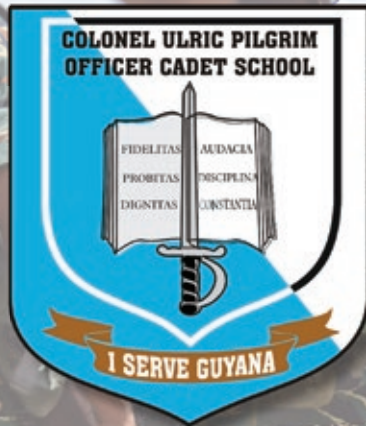
Commissioning Parade

**STANDARD OFFICERS' COURSE
#54**

**on
Wednesday 2023-08-30
Drill Square
Base Camp Ayangana**



COLONEL ULRIC PILGRIM OFFICER CADET SCHOOL



The Guyana Defence Force commenced training its own Officer Cadets in 1969. After 12 years, the Officer Cadet Division of Training Corps evolved into the first Officer Cadet School in the English speaking Caribbean. It became known as the Colonel Ulric Pilgrim Officer Cadet School (CUPOCS), in honour of Colonel Ulric Pilgrim, the first commander of the Force.

This school was established by Colonel Ulric Pilgrim with a simple ceremony on the 22nd of September 1981. In his feature address, he charged the Cadets of the school to aim for the highest standards in all areas and uphold the school's motto, "I SERVE GUYANA."

A total of 53 Courses have since been conducted at the school, commissioning in excess of six thirty seven (637) Officers for the Disciplined Services locally and from sister CARICOM countries.

The role of the CUPOCS is to train young potential leaders of the various Disciplined Services to serve their country. The training seeks to:

- * Develop good character and powers of leadership.
- * Instill qualities of discipline, initiative and self confidence.
- * Teach the duties of citizenship, loyalty and patriotism.



COMMANDER- IN-CHIEF MESSAGE



HEIRS OF A RICH LEGACY OF MILITARY SERVICE

I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduates of Standard Officers' Course No. 54. It brings me great satisfaction that we are graduating another cohort of officers to continue the esteemed military service.

This Commissioning Parade is not only a time-honoured tradition but also a profoundly significant moment for both you and your families and the institutions with which you are/were connected. It's a time to take pride in your achievements and revel in your success through hard work.

Your training has been arduous, demanding significant physical endurance, mental toughness and intellectual agility. Emerging triumphant from such a rigorous course is a feat deserving of admiration and a model for others to follow.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to the dedicated staff at the Colonel Ulric Pilgrim Officer Cadet School, who have imparted knowledge, honed skills and instilled the indispensable qualities of leadership, character and intellect that define an exemplary Officer.

Your nations are counting on your dedication. As you go forth as an Officer, the expectation is that you will embody the highest standards of discipline, excellence, professionalism, and leadership. Nothing short of this will suffice. I entrust you with the responsibility of upholding your nation's Constitutions, maintaining a harmonious civilian-military relationship, and consistently showcasing impeccable conduct in and out of uniform.

Here's to wishing you all prosperous and fulfilling careers ahead!

Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali
President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana,
and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.



CHIEF OF STAFF MESSAGE



I wish to first congratulate you on this significant achievement of graduating and becoming officers. Your journey to this point has been worthy of officership and it signals the beginning of a professional career to serve country. You have now joined others who have made the same journey, and it gives me great honour to welcome you to this unique fold of uniformed service.

You made your family proud. You made your friends proud. You made your nation proud. You made me proud.

You are graduating at a time when the contemporary environment is becoming more challenging and the distractions greater. Expect situations that will test your resolve, and when they do, it is your training, I am sure, that

will help you navigate the tough times and periods of uncertainty.

As you advance in your careers therefore, I implore you to revisit often the Values and Standards of the Guyana Defence Force. They form the bedrock of professionalism and leadership. I single out discipline, integrity, duty, identity, and loyalty as requisites to maintain professional glory.

Discipline calls for you to lead by example and to motivate and provide leadership to those under your charge.

Integrity builds character. You must do the right thing even when you are not being observed by others. Even when the circumstances are unfavourable, reporting accurately is a hallmark of a good officer.

Identity makes the general public recognise who you are. You must be distinct in our speech, deportment, and actions. Projecting such an identity promotes our Values and Standards, and influences mindsets.

Duty to the nation is paramount. It is an obligation. Failing to fulfill our duty is non-negotiable in this noble profession.

Loyalty to the state and the organisation that you serve is essential. Love for country and loyalty to its constitution must be at the front of your minds every time all the time.

Together, these characteristics will be your torch of professionalism and I charge each of you to behold and embrace them fully as you take up the responsibility to manage men, women, and resources.

Finally, remember officers are leaders, and so, be leaders that others would emulate! Leaders whose lifestyle can withstand scrutiny and who the members of your services can be proud of.

Congratulations again and best wishes for a successful career!

Brigadier Omar Khan, MSM
Chief of Staff
Guyana Defence Force



NAVIGATING THE PATH OF LEADERSHIP



BY THE LATE

Colonel Ulric Pilgrim, MSM
(Patron of CUPOCS)

It remains a special privilege to be associated with the commissioning parade for Standard Officer Course Fifty-Four (54) of the Defence Force.

I hasten to express my sincere congratulations to the Graduands of this special programme and to wish them all a fruitful and very rewarding career in this, their chosen profession.

The officer cadet training programme is never meant to be an easy undertaking and quite rightly so too. It is geared to identify, at this stage, the potential of the cadet. The consciousness is of critical importance to you at this stage as you react to this rigorous period now ended and the feeling of accomplishment now enjoyed. Be aware, this period marks the end as well as the beginning.

You will soon be faced with a new reality: the challenge of leadership and responsibility. If you experience a brief feeling of trepidation on being given your first command, do not let this worry you. You will soon realise that you have been trained and will deal with this. Your training will serve you in good stead; be sure of this.

Remember you are only as good as the men you lead. Serve them well. Be concerned about you as their leader. This is the essence of the team spirit.

Remember, the “sky” is the limit. Be professional in all your undertakings. There is no alternative for upward mobility.

My congratulations go to you, as well as to your instructors, families and friends who might have supported you along the way. You have made them proud.

May God’s blessings remain with you throughout your career.



PROGRAMME



1545 Hours



Parade Marches On

1555 Hours



Arrival of The Honourable Prime Minister

1600 Hours



Arrival of His Excellency the President

1635 Hours



Inspection of Troops

1645 Hours



Parade Marches Past

1655 Hours



His Excellency the President Decorates
the Ensigns with Badges of Ranks

1710 Hours



Presentation of Awards

1715 Hours



Address by His Excellency the President

1725 Hours



Parade Marches Off

1730 Hours



Beating Retreat

1735 Hours



Band Marches Off



AWARDEES



SWORD OF HONOUR

999642 CO Brandon Thomas – GPS



RUNNER-UP

999601 2Lt Trolston Embrack – GDF



BEST DRILL

999620 2Lt Orin Roache – GDF



BEST MILITARY KNOWLEDGE

999593 CO Ivor Trotz – GPF



BEST SHOT

999642 CO Brandon Thomas – GPS



BEST FITNESS

999601 2Lt Trolston Embrack – GDF





Course 54

Initially, the Guyana Defence Force Standard Officer Course (SOC) was patterned after the British, with the course lasting for only six months. Eventually, this changed and the course was conducted over 12 months. Beginning in 2017, with SOC 50, the Standard Officer Course was restructured in terms of curriculum and duration. The course is now designed to run over a period of 24 months.

The rationale behind the restructuring is to ensure a more rounded and educated Officer who is prepared to fulfill his role in promoting “Total National Defence.”

The restructuring of the programme has occurred in the context of the “Total National Defence” policy, which stipulates that all the instruments of national power be combined to protect Guyana’s territory. The policy also aims to ensure that the Regular and Reserve Forces are provided with the resources they need to perform their missions.

The restructured SOC extends the range of knowledge and skills training for potential Officers. As such, in addition to receiving their Instruments of Commission, the Officers have also earned an Associate Degree in General Studies from the University of Guyana.

These Officers are the fourth group to completed an entire Jungle Warfare Course as well as Airborne Training as Cadets. They were also privileged, in the context of the restructured programme, to have completed extensive Battlefield Engineering Training as well as Equitation training after an almost 30-year hiatus.

The upgrading of the Standard Officer Course has seen Guyana joining other military academies whose students graduate with an academic degree. This new direction saves time pursuing academic upliftment later and allows the Officer to think and operate at a higher level.



PROFILE OF THE UNDER OFFICER



My name is Brandon Daniel Thomas. I was born on the 30th of December 1995 in the county of Berbice, parented by Father Graham Henry Thomas, a retired Headmaster, and Mother Beverley Blackman Thomas, a retired Midwife. I am the 6th eldest of 9 siblings, one of whom is Cadet Officer Graham Thomas from the Guyana Fire Service, who was commissioned only last year. I

am married to the most amazing woman, Tracey Letitia Samuels Thomas for seven beautiful years to date, with two adorable children ages 1 and 3.

In my leisure time, I enjoy swimming, playing volleyball, and sparring. I attended the Savannah Park Nursery School, St. Aloysius Primary School, New Amsterdam Multilateral Secondary School, New Amsterdam Technical Institute, where I pursued Electrical Insulation, and finally the University of Guyana. There, I secured an associate degree in social work, passing with Distinction. Later, I secured a bachelor's degree in social work.

Initially, my desire was to become a teacher; however, the Guyana Prison Service responded to my application before this could materialise. I commenced my training on the 1st of January 2015, graduating as the runner-up for the best graduating student of BRC 1/2015. I worked in the custodial field for some years, then transitioned into the Welfare and Corrections Department for Inmates.

I have always been ambitious, aspiring to become an Officer to expand my platform of leadership and influence. However, for 6 years, my request to apply for the Standard Officers Course was denied, until it was finally approved in 2021. I was determined to make this opportunity count.

I would like to express my gratitude to God, first and foremost, for health, strength, and wisdom. Thank you to my Wife who made immeasurable and tremendous sacrifices; I love you. To my instructors, trainers, and fellow military personnel who have guided and mentored me throughout this journey, thank you. Their expertise, guidance, and unwavering support have played a significant role in my achievements.

Thank you.

REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999642 Ensign Brandon Thomas - GPS

AGE 27

SOC #54 transformed my life profoundly. A night battling illness underscored resilience, echoing staff's wisdom on strength. Mundane tasks fostered discipline. Leadership's complexity emerged during a session with the School Sergeant Major. Amid breaking my foot and missing family milestones, I learned sacrifice and endurance. Sharing space with diverse personalities highlighted unity's importance. Contrary to my doubts, staff's methods unearthed capabilities. This journey proved the power of the mind.



999601 Ensign Trolston Embrack - GDF

AGE 24

Becoming a military officer in the Guyana Defence Force has transformed me, shaping me into a leader who can tackle challenges with poise and uphold values. The rigorous training tested my resilience physically, mentally, and emotionally, preparing me for the uncertainties of a military career. Amidst the difficulties, positive growth emerged. Three standout experiences include honing leadership skills, pushing my limits to build resilience, and valuing time management. The journey surpassed my expectations; learning to use weapons was thrilling, although instructional methods lacked variety. Embracing technology's role is vital, yet traditional approaches still dominate. Strengthening teaching methods and adopting technology could elevate our training and overall effectiveness. This journey ingrained in me the idea that true strength resides in the mind – the ability to persevere, echoing our military mantra, "it's not your body; it's your mind".



999593 Ensign Ivor Trotz- GPF

AGE 25

Embracing military life led to profound personal growth as I transitioned into a new environment with distinct rules and expectations. Overcoming anxiety during Jungle and Amphibious training, conquering my fear of heights through paratrooping, and experiencing the power of precise rifle shooting and live grenade exercises boosted my self-assurance. Battling physical exhaustion and enduring regimentation showcased my resilience, while homesickness became a powerful motivator. The Standard Officer Cadet Course exceeded my expectations, fostering leadership and growth through real responsibilities and mentorship. The intense physical and mental challenges unveiled my inner strength, and immersing in military culture deepened my sense of duty and honor, shaping me in ways I couldn't have imagined.





REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54



999620 **Ensign Orin Roache - GDF**

AGE 21

Navigating SOC #54, I confronted challenges head-on. Adapting to sleepless nights and demanding training stretched me beyond my limits. Being away from home initially tested my resilience, but it forged a new sense of adaptability and appreciation for regimented life. Leadership roles pushed me to make crucial decisions and earn trust. Engaging in combat training exposed me to war's raw realities, reshaping my beliefs and emotions. Leading others transformed me, sharpening my command skills and broadening perspectives. Traveling offered eye-opening cultural encounters and lasting bonds. As for expectations, camaraderie encountered hurdles, communication wasn't always smooth, and sacrifices arose. Through it all, I emerged with personal growth, unyielding resilience, and a profound sense of purpose in my commitment to serve.



999228 **Ensign Urindell Persaud- GPF**

AGE 28

Being selected for SOC #54 brought immense delight, granting me a fresh chance to complete the cadet course within the police division. My time at the Guyana Police Force taught me the value of advancement for recognition, fueling my pursuit of excellence. I embraced the role of a course senior, a new experience that put me front and center, while also taking responsibility for a group, offering unexpected leadership opportunities before formal training. Completing the first year, I faced a setback by failing a Field Tactical Exercise, leading to an interview with the Standard Officers Review Board (SORB). Apprehensions of disqualification loomed, but I eventually passed a supplemental FTX, marking my promotion to an Ensign.



999592 **Ensign Elroy Khan- GPF**

AGE 27

The SOC's immersive combat simulations at JATS showcased camaraderie and effective communication, while facing physical endurance challenges and engaging in training drills reinforced my 'mind over matter' mentality; enduring severe sleep deprivation during the first phase and tackling tasks like building a fire trench underscored my adaptability, and experiencing the pandemic's separation from family highlighted the sacrifice I made for collective well-being, ultimately surpassing my expectations, enhancing my leadership skills, fostering unity, and creating an environment where supporting peers amid challenges became a defining aspect of my remarkable journey.



REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999595 **Ensign Devante Barkley - GDF**

AGE 25

Embarking on the Standard Officer Course brought profound shifts to my life. This journey transitioned me from a soldier to an officer, a remarkable opportunity that has bestowed greater responsibilities and leadership roles. The intense training not only revealed my untapped inner strength but also instilled the belief that with the right mindset, I can achieve any goal I set my sights on. As someone who used to be more reserved and task-oriented, this course has remarkably transformed me into a more sociable, interactive, and effective leader, capable of fostering collaboration. Through challenges like high expectations, sleep deprivation, and mastering teamwork, I've grown and learned. My initial expectations were tested as effective communication required effort, and I realized that becoming an officer isn't an immediate transformation, but a journey through various phases that cultivate comprehensive understanding and readiness for leadership. Moreover, the course taught me adaptability as I discovered that unit placement is at the discretion of the Guyana Defence Force. This journey has redefined my capabilities, expanding my horizons not only as a potential officer but as a more versatile individual ready to thrive in diverse scenarios.



999596 **Ensign Shequile Sparman- GPF**

AGE 25

Embarking on Standard Officer's Course #54 has been transformative, molding my practical skills and personal insights. Transitioning from soldier to officer instilled responsibility and leadership, shaping a more confident me. The initial culture shock spurred growth, fostering camaraderie and knowledge acquisition. Strengthening leadership and public speaking skills bolstered my confidence, while thriving under pressure underscored teamwork's power. Adapting to separation from family cultivated resilience. Overcoming challenges like physical endurance and sleepless nights accentuated my growth. Guided by discipline and patience, determination deepened. The journey shattered expectations, revealing that officerhood transcends surface rewards. As I return to the Guyana Police Force, armed with these traits, I'm prepared to excel as an officer.



REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999598 Ensign Damar Haynes - GDF

AGE 24

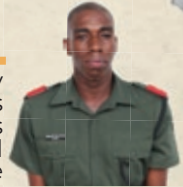
I will forever be grateful to the Guyana Fire Service for affording me the opportunity to undergo training on the Standard Officer Course. This course was a unique and excellent experience which will contribute to me becoming an asset to my organisation. It has developed in me, a proactive mindset and provided several examples of excellent leadership which has given me the requisite skills to craft my own. My favourite quote "cogito ergo sum" by René Descartes translated is, "I think therefore I am", which speaks to the existence and attainability of knowledge. The knowledge I gained will serve me well throughout my career.



999599 Ensign Kishawn Moore - GDF

AGE 24

Enrolling in Standard Officer Course #54 transformed my discipline and integrity, pushing me through sacrifices and nerve-racking decisions. Achieving ensigncy was emotionally rewarding, and the rigorous training revealed my resilience. Alongside triumphs, challenges arose, like facing punishment for others' actions and navigating financial choices. My expectations sometimes diverged from reality, hoping for respect as an ensign but finding more responsibility than freedom. Guiding peers and camaraderie also faced hurdles.



999600 Ensign Marlon Adolph - GDF

AGE 24

Being chosen as a student for Standard Officer Course #54 fulfilled my aspiration of becoming a commissioned officer, making me a role model due to my determination. The unexpected thrill of attempting Paratrooping was an adrenaline rush, promising a continued journey as a paratrooper. Jungle training in Makouria showcased my resilience in handling life-threatening situations. Amid three challenges, coping with mental fatigue enhanced my mental strength, exceeding my physical limits boosted my confidence, and this course shattered my self-doubt. Expecting reliance on muscle, I learned the power of initiative and common sense. Anticipating a university focus, I realized the need to balance military and academic commitments. Despite my prior experience, the course revealed room for growth, transforming my skills and understanding.



REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999602 Ensign Kurt Caesar - GDF

AGE 23

Enlisting in the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) exceeded my expectations of rigorous physical training, camaraderie, and strict discipline. The training built my strength, while camaraderie formed deep bonds among comrades. The challenges included, demanding physical and mental training, emotional separation from loved ones, and adapting to the hierarchical culture. These difficulties led to transformative experiences, nurturing my personal growth, fostering enduring friendships, and shaping my leadership style.



999606 Ensign Darrick Griffith - GDF

AGE 23

Enrolling in the Standard Officer Course #54 brought unexpected challenges, transforming me through rigorous training and life-changing experiences. From the demanding regimentation phase that instilled discipline and mental strength to leading troops during Exercise Trip-Flair and enduring jungle training, I discovered inner resilience and leadership skills. Challenges like learning to swim and embracing strict discipline tested my determination. Although some expectations clashed with reality, the camaraderie and personal growth were profound. Despite difficulties, the course made me a stronger, more resilient officer.



999608 Ensign Joshua Kunjebhary - GDF

AGE 23

Choosing to join the military was a life-altering decision, demanding dedication and sacrifice. Standard Officer Course #54 ushered me into a demanding regimentation phase that shattered comfort zones, forged a military mindset, and fostered deep connections. Amid Covid-19, this phase extended, testing adaptability. Military service revealed my potential, enhancing empathy and reshaping perspectives. Challenges ranged from being apart from loved ones to meeting peak physical standards and embracing teamwork. Expectations of leadership and enduring stress met the reality of diverse training, instilling discipline and skills. While it meant distance from home, the journey enriched my worldview. Adhering to strict standards on and off duty shaped my resilience and sense of responsibility.

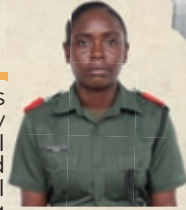


REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999610 Ensign Akela Dehnert - GDF

AGE 23

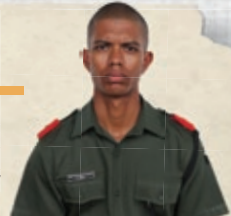
Embarking on the Standard Officer Course #54 was a transformative journey that pushed me beyond my expectations. As a woman in the Guyana Defence Force, I sought respect and equality and was pleasantly surprised by the respectful treatment I received. The challenges I faced, including physical fitness demands and adapting to military life, tested my limits. Life-changing moments like earning the ensign rank and conquering aquatic fears showed me the power of determination. However, training also brought exhaustion, sleep deprivation, and homesickness. The experience taught me that leadership involves listening, motivating, and understanding. The rigorous demands pushed me further than I thought possible, revealing my resilience. Lastly, the military's culture, values, and standards became a part of me, instilling respect, discipline, and a profound sense of duty.



999612 Ensign Bhajnarie Seepersaud - GPF

AGE 22

My journey through Standard Officer Course fifty-four has been a transformative experience, revealing my strengths and areas for improvement. Working closely with fellow trainees, I've not only enhanced my situational awareness and leadership skills, but also fostered a strong sense of camaraderie and dedication to serving our nation. While my initial expectations evolved, I've embraced the challenges and growth, and I now stand with a renewed purpose and a deepened connection to my profession.



999616 Ensign Rolex Bobb - GDF

AGE 21

I am proud member of the Standard Officer Course 54. Throughout my journey, I embraced demanding physical and mental training, faced long hours, and adjusted to a disciplined lifestyle. These challenges forged me into a strong and determined leader. The course ingrained values of discipline, teamwork, and leadership in me, offering not only personal growth but also opportunities for professional development, travel, and career advancement.





REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54



999619 Ensign Mark Prowell - GDF

AGE 21

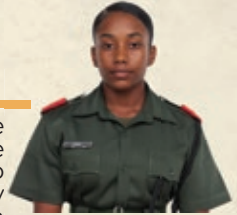
Conquering my fear of swimming was a personal milestone as I fearlessly navigated the Essequibo river. Military training honed my quick problem-solving, innovative thinking, and adaptability under pressure. These skills now seamlessly manifest in my interactions with civilians. The course also refined my manners and communication style, fostering etiquette and effective engagement. Amid challenges like adjusting to disciplined military life, family time sacrifices, and accommodating varying leadership approaches, the motto "Jump to the Rhythm" guided my flexibility. Expectations shifted, blending theory with physical demands and instilling disciplined character beyond combat. The instructor diversity enriched my leadership adaptability.



999622 Ensign Princess Mcpherson - GDF

AGE 21

My journey has been defined by transformative experiences, transitioning from civilian to military life instilled leadership, teamwork, and the confidence to tackle challenges head-on. Paratrooping shattered my fear of heights, making me a part of GDF's history as a decorated female paratrooper. Alongside mental strain, POW training revealed buried emotions and highlighted the necessity for objectivity. Jungle training pushed me to my limits, testing my spirit but ultimately fortifying my resilience. Overcoming swimming challenges was a testament to my determination and guidance.



999624 Ensign Jakeim Lyken - GDF

AGE 20

Joining the army reshaped my life through unique experiences, personal growth, and unforeseen challenges. This essay delves into three pivotal events, from rigorous basic training forging camaraderie and resilience, to deployments revealing life's harsh realities, and promotions fostering leadership. Amid these, challenges like family separation, combat-related stress, and work-life balance emerged. Expectations of camaraderie evolved into an unbreakable brotherhood, heroic acts took on a broader vital role, and clarity of purpose adapted to ever-changing situations. This journey, marked by transformation and commitment, drives me to embody bravery and sacrifice, reflecting the true spirit of a soldier.



REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999628 Ensign Seth Anthony - GDF

AGE 20

My journey through the Standard Officer Course transformed me. The regimentation phase at C.U.P.O.C.S challenged my mindset, while the Jungle Amphibious Training taught me survival and discipline. Challenges included physical training, demanding academics, and fostering teamwork. Expectations met reality as physical demands surpassed preparation, camaraderie came with conflicts, and leadership training turned into practical decision-making. This course redefined my limits and equipped me for future military endeavors.



999630 Ensign Derick Murphy - GDF

AGE 20

Enlisting in the military immersed me in strict rules that shaped my discipline and morals, transforming initial challenges into habits that revealed my potential. Isolation fostered introspection, highlighting true desires and the insignificance of some pursuits. Embracing diversity in the Guyana Defence Force initially posed challenges, yet taught unity in adversity. The journey exceeded physical and mental expectations, revealing the mind's power. This transformative experience left me more disciplined, respectful, and pressure-resilient, shaping personal and professional growth, guided by a higher power.



999633 Ensign Matthew Harry - GDF

AGE 20

Standard Officer Course 54 redefined me, its regimentation phase instilled unyielding physical and mental resilience, while diverse training like JATS fostered adaptability. Responsibilities such as duty student strengthened confidence. Challenges included balancing academics with rigorous training, coping with intensity, and adapting swiftly to changes. Reality often diverged from expectations, unveiling growth opportunities and teaching me to embrace challenges for transformation.



REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54



999634 Ensign Ivor McNabb - GDF

AGE 20

Transitioning from a wild lifestyle, military discipline helped me transform and influence friends positively. Physical exhaustion from rigorous training questioned its worth. Life-changing events included becoming physically and mentally prepared, witnessing a traumatic jungle training event that initially traumatized me, and the impactful return home after training. Expecting camaraderie-building through military training, it did foster teamwork but sometimes overshadowed by competition. The physically and mentally exhausting nature of training caused stress at times, however, it helped me to develop new skills to take me through life.



999635 Ensign Joshua Taylor - GDF

AGE 19

My journey has been defined by transformative experiences, transitioning from civilian to military life instilled leadership, teamwork, and the confidence to tackle challenges head-on. Paratrooping shattered my fear of heights, making me a part of GDF's history as a decorated female paratrooper. Alongside mental strain, POW training revealed buried emotions and highlighted the necessity for objectivity. Jungle training pushed me to my limits, testing my spirit but ultimately fortifying my resilience. Overcoming swimming challenges was a testament to my determination and guidance.

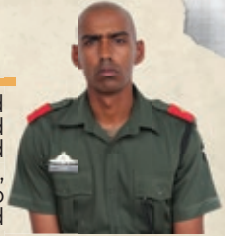


REFLECTIONS BY MEMBERS OF SOC 54

999638 Ensign Desmond Kursatte - GFS

AGE 31

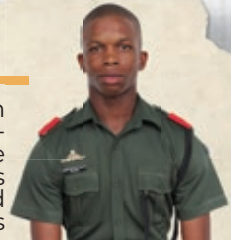
During the course, several life-changing events reshaped my perspective: discovering a greater purpose beyond firefighting, conquering my fear of deep water, and revitalizing my physical health. Challenges persisted, notably the demanding training's physical toll, sleep deprivation, and task time limitations. The condensed "Cadet course" compressed a soldier's training into intense periods, testing my limits in heat and exhaustion. Overcoming these challenges bolstered my discipline and resilience. The misalignment of task timings with GDF working hours remains a challenge. My expectations of strict rules, management classes, and command-centric focus contrasted with GDF realities that incorporate human factors and prioritize physical fitness. As a platoon commander, emphasizing teamwork over control proved paramount, fostering unity and shared purpose.



999641 Ensign Melroy Semple - GDF

AGE 19

Embracing the standard officer course has been transformative. The emphasis on neatness and self-grooming has molded a new version of myself. The army's dedication to impeccable surroundings has translated into my personal life, fostering a newfound appreciation for tidiness. Meeting physical standards instilled habits promoting fitness. Adapting to the elevated course standard challenged me physically, while embracing army practices initially proved demanding. Balancing army commitment and personal interests was a hurdle. My expectations were met with both physical and mental challenges; the course's impact on my physique, performance, time management, and problem-solving abilities surpassed what I anticipated. This journey has been transformative in ways I hadn't imagined.





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54





SNAPSHOTS OF SOC 54



999642 BRANDON THOMAS
SWORD OF HONOUR / BEST SHOT



999601 TROLSTON EMBRACK
RUNNER-UP / BEST FITNESS



999593 IVOR TROTZ
BEST MILITARY KNOWLEDGE



999620 ORIN ROACHE
BEST DRILL



GRADUANDS



999642	ENS	Brandon Thomas	Sword of Honour / Best Shot - GPS
999601	ENS	Trolston Embrack	Runner-Up Student / Best Fitness - GDF
999593	ENS	Ivor Trotz	Best Military Knowledge - GPF
999620	ENS	Orin Roache	Best Drill - GDF
999228	ENS	Urindell Persaud	
999592	ENS	Elroy Khan	
999595	ENS	Devante Barkley	
999596	ENS	Shequile Sparman	
999598	ENS	Damar Haynes	
999599	ENS	Kishawn Moore	
999600	ENS	Marlon Adolph	
999602	ENS	Kurt Caesar	
999606	ENS	Darrick Griffith	
999608	ENS	Joshua Kunjebahary	
999610	ENS	Akela Dehnert	
999612	ENS	Bhajnarie Seepersaud	
999616	ENS	Rolex Bobb	
999619	ENS	Mark Prowell	
999622	ENS	Princess Mc Pherson	
999624	ENS	Jakeim Lyken	
999628	ENS	Seth Anthony	
999630	ENS	Derick Murphy	
999633	ENS	Matthew Harry	
999634	ENS	Ivor Mc Nabb	
999635	ENS	Joshua Taylor	
999638	ENS	Desmond Kursatte	
999641	ENS	Melroy Semple	



NATIONAL ANTHEM



Dear land of Guyana, of rivers and plains
Made rich by the sunshine, and lush by the rains,
Set gem-like and fair, between mountains and seas,
Your children salute you, dear land of the free.

Green land of Guyana, our heroes of yore,
Both bondsmen and free, laid their bones on your shore.
This soil so they hallowed, and from them are we,
All sons of one Mother, Guyana the free.

Great land of Guyana, diverse though our strains,
We're born of their sacrifice, heirs of their pains,
And ours is the glory their eyes did not see,
One land of six peoples, united and free.

Dear land of Guyana, to you will we give,
Our homage, our service, each day that we live;
God guard you, great Mother, and make us to be
More worthy our heritage, land of the free.

