

Salutations

In life, we all know that everything that has a beginning has an end, and after almost 32 years of service inclusive of the years as Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, I have reached the end of my tenure as Commanding Officer and will be moving on from Staubles Bay. During this long journey with the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, I have met many people, visited many countries, made many friends and seen many changes take place within this great organisation.

I remember the days when the Coast Guard had just one base, with a couple hundred men and two small wooden structures on the sea front. I have now lived and served to see this beloved institution mature from a handful of men, to over thirteen hundred in strength inclusive of women, grow from having fast pirogues to “state of the art” Edgewater Interceptors and seen the formation of a professional, skilled and multi-faceted unit, capable of handling any challenge as the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard assumes a Navy like role within this region.

I am happy to have served, and as I leave, I could think of only good memories as to when it all started and it seems like just yesterday.

Over this 32 year spell having gone from Officer Cadet to Captain, I have many high points during my career. As a Seaman Officer I have always enjoyed being at sea and which I will miss, and to me this truly makes this job a unique one. I also remember the highlights of my career, one of which is when I was appointed ADC to serve with this Excellency President Hassanali and another was becoming the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard. These experiences and memories I will cherish for the rest of my life as I move to the next evolution.

At this time I would also like to thank those here who have supported and stood by me throughout the years and have assisted in my growth and development particularly my hardworking and efficient staff. I would also especially like to acknowledge the officers, senior

rates and junior ratings (both current and present) that have made my stay here a memorable and enjoyable one.

This new appointment, as Defence Attaché, London, I welcome very much as it will serve to enhance my Knowledge and experience in preparation for my exit of the Defence Force which is in a few years. I will as usual endeavour to do my best in this new appointment and look forward to welcoming those new challenges ahead.

I would also like to encourage everyone here to give to your new Commanding Officer Captain K. Moore, the equivalent full support that was given to me, as I know that the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard continues to be in safe and competent arms. Captain I hope that you have as good an experience in the “hot seat” as I have and I wish you all the best in your new office.

In closing I would like to thank everyone here for attending, I wish everyone all the best, and before I go, I would like to leave you all with these words of advice “never let people like you for what you can do for them, but let them like you for what you do” thank you very much.