



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

July 13, 2023

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

REGIMENT AND AIR GUARD COMMANDING OFFICERS RECEIVE INSTRUMENTS OF APPOINTMENT FROM MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Port of Spain: Two (2) senior members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF), serving in leadership roles, have received letters of promotion and appointment from Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. They were promoted by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in accordance with Section 12 of the Defence Act, Chapter 14:01.

Group Captain Kemba Hannays was promoted from the rank of Wing Commander, and appointed to the position of Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard (TTAG), with effect from January 01, 2023. Group Captain Hannays' appointment is historic as she becomes the first female officer to Command a Formation, the first female Commanding Officer of the TTAG, and the first female officer in the history of the Defence Force to attain the aforementioned rank. Group Captain Hannays is the fifth Commanding Officer of the TTAG. She is a career officer who joined the military over twenty two (22) years ago. In 2006, she became one of the first Rotary Wing pilots in the then newly established TTAG and has served as Deputy Commanding Officer of the TTAG since 01 November, 2013.

Colonel Keston Charles was promoted from the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and appointed to the position of Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment (TTR), with effect from January 01, 2023. Colonel Charles has over twenty-two (22) years' service in the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force. His previous roles included Acting Commanding Officer of the TTR, Commanding Officer of the First Infantry Battalion as well as the Second Infantry Battalion. He becomes one of the youngest persons to be appointed as a Formation Commanding Officer and is the twentieth Commanding Officer in the history of the TTR.

Extending congratulations to Group Captain Hannays and Colonel Charles, at a brief Promotion Ceremony held on Monday July 10, 2023 at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain, Minister Hinds

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stated that the respective appointments represent a proud moment for the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and the Ministry of National Security. The Minister acknowledged that both members of the TTDF executive exemplify strong leadership and thanked them for their service and dedication to duty. He asked both leading officers to encourage and support those under their command, to ensure the TTDF remains "*renowned for its service excellence, professionalism and strong ethos*". He expressed best wishes to them for a successful career in fulfilment of the TTDF mandate.

Also in attendance to congratulate the Commanding Officers Hannays and Charles were Permanent Secretary (Ag.) of the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Gary Joseph; Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel; Vice Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier General Dexter Francis; TTDF Force Command Senior Enlisted Advisor, Warrant Officer Class 1 Rian Dillon; and the spouses of Commanding Officers, Group Captain Hannays and Colonel Charles.

Photos and captions:



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1. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*right*) and Mr. Hannays (*spouse of Group Captain Kemba Hannays*) affix badges of rank to Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard, Group Captain Kemba Hannays, at a Promotion and Appointment Ceremony held on Monday July 10, 2023, at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.



2. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*right*) presents a Letter of Promotion and Appointment to Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard, Group Captain Kemba Hannays, at a Promotion and Appointment Ceremony held on Monday July 10, 2023, at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

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3. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*right*) and Mrs. Charles (*spouse of Colonel Keston Charles*) affix badges of rank to Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, Colonel Keston Charles, at a Promotion and Appointment Ceremony held on Monday July 10, 2023, at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.



4. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (*right*) presents a Letter of Promotion and Appointment to Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, Colonel Keston Charles, at a Promotion and Appointment Ceremony held on Monday July 10, 2023 at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.



From left to right: Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel; Permanent Secretary (Ag.) of the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Gary Joseph; Mrs. Charles; Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, Colonel Keston Charles; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Commanding Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Air Guard, Group Captain Kemba Hannays; Mr. Hannays; Vice Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier General Dexter Francis, and TTDF Force Command Senior Enlisted Advisor, Warrant Officer Class 1 Rian Dillon.

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