

New batch of Territorial Army officers graduate

By Rizalman Harun

It was a day like no other in the life of Universiti Tunku Hussein Ummi Malaysia (UTIM) student Norzaini Abdillah.

On July 9, the 25-year-old, whose father is an ex-vice-governor, and 1,108 other Reserve Officer Training Unit cadet officers received their commissions as officers in the Territorial Army.

The Royal Commissioning Ceremony was officiated by the Sultan of Johor, Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar, at UTIM.

Also present at the ceremony were Tunku Mahkota Johor Tunku Ismail Ibrahim, Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Osman, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Dr Abdul Latiff Ahmad, Army Chief Gen Datuk Zulkifli Zainal Abidin and

chairman of the board of directors of UTIM Tan Sri Jamil M Hassan.

Nor, who was chosen as the best cadet officer from UTIM, said: "In secondary school I was active in Pasukan Kadet Bersatu Malaysia and when I studied for my diploma at Politeknik Sultan Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, I joined the Territorial Army.

The final year mechanical and manufacturing engineering student, said he wanted to join the Army.

The new officers, who came from 14 public universities received their commissions after three years of training.

The ceremony started with the passing-out parade by the officers at UTIM.

Loosening straps in their uniforms, the officers stood at attention as Sultan Ibrahim inspected the parade on-board a special military vehicle.

The sultan also presented awards to the top 25 cadet officers. The officers received their commissions in a



The university students had undergone three years of training in the Reserve Officer Training Unit.

Sultan Ibrahim and Tunku Ismail Ibrahim saluting the officers in the passing-out parade.

ceremony at Dewan Tunku Ibrahim Ismail.

Norazlan's mother Siti Rahmah Sidek, 57, said the family had always been supportive of his interest in the

military.

"We are proud of what he has achieved. He seems to have inherited the warrior spirit from his father, Abdillah Hassan," she added.

The top cadet officer from Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UniMAP), Zursaini Mohd Baslan, 22, said: "While in training, I had to be smart in dividing the time between

studying and training.

"I also had to sacrifice a lot of my free time to fulfil my commitment to the Reserve Officer Training Unit.

"I learned a lot from my

training, including self-discipline.

"It also presented me from engaging in unhealthy activities," said the material engineering student.

The Reserve Officer Training Unit was established in 1979 to train public university students to become junior officers in the Territorial Army.



Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar presenting an award to one of the top 25 cadet officers.



Sultan Ibrahim inspecting the guard of honour.



The new officers of the Territorial Army are from 14 public universities. — Pictures by Hairul Anuar Abdul Rahim



Family members watching as the officers receive the commissions.