MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Volume 36, Issue 01 December 7th, 2018.

ADVANCING REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

Countering mutual threats within the Caribbean Region through collaborative strategies: this topic was foremost at the Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) XVII held in Trinidad and Tobago on 4th – 6th December, 2018, under the theme "***Enhancing the Framework to Counter Threats and Respond to Crises.***" The 2018 Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) XVII was a joint effort between the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and the United States Southern Command (US SOUTHCOM).

Speaking at the Opening Ceremony, Minister of National Security the Honourable Stuart Young welcomed this collaborative effort, noting that the multidimensional nature of global security threats calls for increased cooperation and integration, in order to enhance defence and security strategic planning, especially in the areas of transnational organised crime, narcotics and small arms trafficking, and the management of natural disasters.

Also addressing participants were Chief of Defence Staff of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force Rear Admiral Hayden Prichard and visiting Commander of the U.S. Southern Command U.S. Navy Admiral Craig Faller.

This annual US SOUTHCOM-sponsored conference brought together military and civilian leaders from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. Officials from Canada, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom were also invited to participate as observers.

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PRISON SERVICE HONOURS RETIRED COMMISSIONERS

It was a nostalgic atmosphere on Wednesday 5th December, 2018 when the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service paid tribute to and celebrated its past Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and recent Executive retirees with a luncheon, in recognition of the honourees' service and commitment to the nation.

Commissioner of Prisons (Ag.) Mr. Gerard Wilson paid homage to the former Commissioners for their transformative leadership and respective contributions, noting that their efforts have helped to shape the Prison Service into the forward-moving organization it is today. Commissioner Wilson thanked all honourees for their mentorship of the officers under their charge and for their role in safeguarding Trinidad and Tobago by transforming the lives of inmates.

This event was historic as it marked the first time that past Commissioners were brought together to reflect on their service. Wednesday's luncheon formed part of the Prison Service's #180 About Turn Initiative which is designed to engage and educate the general public on the tremendous work being done by prison officers both behind prison walls as well as in communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

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STRENGTHENING SUPPORT SYSTEMS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Ministry of National Security's Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) continues to partner with key national stakeholders to counter human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago.

As part of its mandate to create public awareness of this phenomenon, the CTU delivered a two-part Training Programme geared towards Shelter Staff and specifically, social services providers who are tasked with providing the necessary support for victims of human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Training Programme addressed topics such as the basics of Human Trafficking, consequences of a country's non-response to Trafficking In Persons, Treating with Child and Foreign Victims of Trafficking, the Hidden Scars of the Trafficking Experience, Basic First Aid, and Preparing and Responding to Emergencies.

Part one of this training programme was held in July 2018 and coincided with the commemoration of the United Nations Worlds Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The second part of the programme took place in November and December 2018, during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

The Counter Trafficking Unit worked in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit (NGO) of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, the Caribbean Umbrella for Restorative Behaviour (CURB), Douglas and Associates and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society to deliver this important training session.

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