

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **34 Singapore Youth Flying Club Trainees Graduate As Private Pilots**

1. A total of 34 Junior College and Polytechnics students received their Wings and certificates at the Singapore Youth Flying Club (SYFC) Private Pilot Licence (PPL) Wings and Aviation Awards Ceremony 2020 today, having completed the one-year Private Pilot Licence (PPL) course earlier this year.

2. Addressing the graduands in a pre-recorded video message that was screened at the ceremony, Senior Minister of State for Defence and Manpower Mr Zaqy Mohamad highlighted that the SYFC has lived up to its mission of inspiring youths to pursue a career with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) to enhance Singapore's peace and security, almost fifty years after it was founded in 1971. He said, "Our need for a strong RSAF remains the same. Singapore is a small country with no strategic depth. We rely on a capable and operationally ready RSAF to overcome our geographical vulnerabilities, so that Singapore can survive and thrive... Today, a third of RSAF pilots, including the current Chief of Air Force Major-General Kelvin Khong, are SYFC alumni. I hope their achievements will encourage more youths to take advantage of the excellent opportunities provided by SYFC, and in doing so, be inspired to take the next step of building a career flying with the RSAF and defending our skies."

3. Mr Zaqy also commended RSAF airmen and women for their strong support of national efforts to combat COVID-19, even while continuing with critical air defence operations. He said, "RSAF personnel on operational duties, for example, had to live on base apart from their families during their deployments. They did this because they understood that air threats do not go away because of COVID-19. Therefore, it is important that we stay vigilant so that those who would exploit the pandemic to test our defence will not succeed."

4. The ceremony marks the completion of the year-long rigorous pilot training at SYFC where graduands were taught aviation knowledge, flying skills, as well as important life skills and values. The SYFC provides an opportunity for young Singaporeans to follow their passion for flying and offers a good foundation for them to qualify and pursue a career in the RSAF. Amid COVID-19 restrictions, graduands' families, friends, school teachers and lecturers, aviation industry partners as well as senior officials from the RSAF tuned in virtually via video conferencing for the ceremony.

###