



Taamil Chelvi (second from right) with her teammates at a marching course in 2000. (Inset) She joined the Royal Malaysian Air Force in 1981 and served for nearly 30 years.

Proud to serve the nation



Kpt Ahmad Ramli Kardi, aide de camp to Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah

I JOINED the Royal Malaysian Navy in 1977 as a young boy from an impoverished family seeking a better life.

For me, the opportunity to further my studies was an impossible dream as my family did not have the financial ability to help me realise it.

So, I joined the navy instead. Once there, I discovered a whole new world which taught me to be unconditionally loyal to our King and country.

As soldiers, our utmost priority is to serve our King and country, and I learnt this soon after I was sent for naval training on the *KD Pelandok* at Woodlands Naval Base in Singapore and subsequently the Sebatang Kara Camp in Port Dickson.

The oath that I took as a naval officer when I was commissioned still rings clear in my mind.

I promised to always be loyal to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and to protect the country's sovereignty as an independent nation.

But I believe that every Malaysian, not just military personnel, should take heed of the principles



Kpt Ahmad Ramli (left) with his colleague Shahbudin Hashim.

enshrined in the Rukun Negara as that is what marks our identities as Malaysians.

The principle of Kesetiaan Kepada Raja dan Negara (Loyalty to King and Country), which is the second tenet in the Rukun Negara, is crucial as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the Malay Rulers and the state governors are the symbols of national unity.

This tenet means that every

Malaysian must be loyal and sincere to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, as well as the Rulers of their respective states.

For me, my loyalty is with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong as the King of Malaysia as well as the Supreme Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces, and with the Sultan of Selangor as the Ruler of the state and the Captain-in-Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy.



Warrant Officer II (R) M. Tamil Chelvi, Royal Malaysian Air Force veteran

Ever since I was a child, I have loved uniforms. Because of this, I joined uniform bodies while in school.

After completing Form Five at Pudu English Secondary School in 1978, I decided that I would either join the police or the Malaysian Armed Forces.

I sent in various applications and in 1981, I was selected to undergo training to join the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

I was overjoyed because in the years between leaving school and sending in my applications, I always felt an overwhelming desire to serve the country.

Here I was, a girl from the city, whose only inkling of joining the military was that I would finally be able to wear a uniform and serve the nation.

During training, I was exposed to so many things that taught me about unity, solidarity, loyalty and discipline.

In the Armed Forces, regardless of our race and religion, we were all one with the ultimate goal of serving our King and country.

There is no racism amongst



Armed Forces personnel as we know we have to watch out for each other's backs.

In short, we are each other's family while in service to our King and country.

It has been 13 years since I retired and I miss my life in the Air Force as well as the camaraderie I enjoyed there.

But I still carry within me the pride of being a Malaysian soldier who is undividedly loyal to my King and country.