



**ROYAL ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES POLICE FORCE  
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**PRESS RELEASE**

***Thirteen (13) graduate from the Basic Electrical/Engineering Course***

**August 26, 2024 - Kingstown:** On Friday, August 23, 2024, thirteen (13) members of staff of the SVG Coast Guard Service graduated from the Basic Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Course 1/2024. The successful participants are as follows:

**Able-Bodied Seaman (AB)**

1. Kadeem Henry

**Ordinary Seaman (OS)**

2. Shane Fraser
3. Litonya John
4. Cody Laidlow
5. Lesron Pope
6. Jesse-Lee Porter
7. Julae Stephenson
8. Taye Williams

**Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGA)**

9. Ashad Ashton
10. Shaquana Grant
11. Keadon Hackshaw
12. Keswin Mc Fee

### 13. Israel Roberts

While delivering brief remarks at the Closing Ceremony, Sub-Lieutenant (Sub. Lt) Gordon Charles, the Course Officer lauded the training and the senior leadership at the Coast Guard Service. According to Sub-Lt. Charles, the Coast Guard continuously conducts professional development training programmes in various fields, including but not limited to, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Basic Coxswain, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning, and Boatswain mate. These programmes he stated are done through a partnership with the Regional Security Systems (RSS), Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, and locally by instructors at the Coast Guard.

“We are satisfied that training opportunities are consistently conducted annually and are made available to all ranks of the Coast Guard Service. Internally, each department is expected to conduct weekly training sessions to keep abreast of the progressive environment in which we operate,” said Charles.

Charles concluded his remarks by thanking the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard, Commander (Ag) Mr. Deon Henry, and his senior executive team for recognizing, appreciating, organizing, and supporting the thrust in continuous professional development for members of the Coast Guard Service.

Chief Instructor of the training course, Chief Petty Officer Mr. Daniel Foyle gave an overview of the programme. He said that the Coast Guard Service is committed to its officers' ongoing professional development, which ultimately builds the productive capacity of the organization's personnel. The Chief Instructor said that the two-week intensive course commenced on Monday, August 12, 2024, and concluded on Friday, August 23, 2024.

“This highly competitive programme featured lectures on several topics such as Hand Tools, Internal Combustion Engines (ICE), Basic Outboard Engineering Maintenance, Tag-out Procedures, Electrical Safety and Principles, Basic Electrical and Electronic Symbols and Principles, Basic Electrical Troubleshooting, Outboard Motors, Faulty Finding and Troubleshooting, Construction of an Electrical System, Introduction to Generators, Disassembly and Reassembling of Generators and Outbound Motors among others,” said Chief Petty Officer Foyle.

The Chief Instructor proudly reported that the overall performance average of the course was 82.5% while OS Litonya John, the most outstanding averaged 87.1%. He and his fellow instructors for their dedication and skills displayed during the program and for the knowledge that they transferred to the officers.

Lieutenant (Lt.) William Theobalds, Head of the Engineering Department at the Coast Guard Service, Training Officer, and Commandant of the Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Training School also addressed the participants. He remarked “As we gather here today to mark the conclusion of the Basic Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Course, I am filled with a profound sense of pride and admiration for each one of you. Over the past two weeks, you have immersed yourselves in a rigorous and demanding curriculum designed not just to educate, but to assist in transforming you into proficient, skilled officers the Coast Guard relies on.”

Lt. Theobalds told the officers that the training did not only equip them with a foundational understanding of engineering principles but also fostered their growth as future leaders who are capable of navigating intricate systems and helped them to develop a deeper understanding of the engineering principles that are critical to their daily duties.”

In his address to the officers, the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard, Commander (Ag), Mr. Deon Henry explained the strategic reasons for the training programme. According to Commander Henry, he and his executive team recognized there was a deficiency within the engineering department concerning electrical engineers. This deficiency according to him “threatened the efficient and effective functioning of the Coast Guard Service.” As a result, he held several meetings with the head of the engineering department and directed him and his team to develop programs to train officers and build capacity within the department.

“We at the Coast Guard are constantly seeking other sources of technical training in the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, the Regional Security System (RSS), and local sources,” said the Acting Commander.

He cautioned the officers not to slight training that is done locally. He said “Many people think that training is only effective when it is done in another country or away from the workplace. Based on the instructions provided over the past two weeks, I am confident that the training you received has given you a strong foundation for your electrical journey in the Coast Guard because there was nothing basic about this course.”

In justifying his statement, the Commanding Officer posited four (4) benefits of in-house training as follows:

1. **It is cost-effective in terms of time and money.** The employees are not required to travel to a training center, and the trainers are usually from the same organization thereby reducing the cost of hiring external trainers.
2. **In-house training enhances communication** within the workplace allows for the customization of training according to the needs of the organization and facilitates networking among employees
3. **It is convenient.** It takes place in the same location and eliminates the need for travel.

4. **In-house training is customized** to the organization and employees' needs and improves productivity.

The Closing Ceremony was ably chaired by Chief Petty Officer, Mr. Alvis Daniel.

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