Better options for servicemen

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KUALA LUMPUR: Graduates of the K-Force education programme, a collaboration between the Defence Ministry and University Tun Abdul Razak, are grateful they have been given opportunities to better themselves and acquire additional skills.

One firm believer in the programme is Royal Malaysian Air Force Major Lee Tian Peu, who said it helped cultivate a learning culture among servicemen and prepare them for post-retirement life.

Married couple Rosni Ismail and Razuki Abdullah, both RMAF sergeants, said the qualifications obtained under the programme provided them with more options after retirement.

"With better qualifications, the scope of things that we can do is wider. If not, we will be looking only at jobs like security guards," said Rosni.

Navy Lt Commander Chandrasehgaran, who obtained a diploma in business administration, said they would have the chance to join the corporate world after leaving the service.

Lance corporal Shobri Sharifuddin, a graduate in administration, said he could now focus on working in administrative areas instead of being in the field.

"Because of the programme, I can still serve in other areas namely, in the administrative sector," said Shobri, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Commander Abd Hamid Ali, a Provost Marshall research staff officer, said K-Force did not only provide soldiers with better qualifications but also other skills such as information technology.

"In modern war, technology is more advanced and soldiers need to be better prepared."

The programme, launched in 2002, has produced its first batch of 316 graduates.

They received their scrolls from Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.