

**Welcome address AMI**  
**GenMaj H. VINDEVOGEL, MSc Eng**  
**11-09-2012**

**General, Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,**

As the commandant of the Royal Military Academy, I am happy and proud to welcome you in this splendid chapel of our Academy.

The Belgian Royal Military Academy has a long history and has been offering high level academic and military education to Belgian and international military leaders since 1834. It is today the only military, bilingual and federal university in Belgium, responsible for both basic and advanced officer training and education.

The education programs are mainly intended for future Belgian and international officers, men and women of course, of all services.

The curricula of the courses taught both at the Polytechnics Faculty and at the Faculty of Social and Military Sciences allow the future graduates to obtain a master degree in engineering sciences or a master of arts degree in social and military sciences. Later on in their careers most of them return to the academy to follow a series of advanced level courses, which may lead to a master after master or even a PhD degree.

The aspect that makes the Royal Military Academy so unique is the very strong integration of academic, military and leadership skills. Indeed, to complete their training successfully, our cadets should not only meet the academic criteria, but also fulfill the military, physical and personality requirements.

It is also worth mentioning that exchanges with Belgian and foreign universities are getting more frequent. At the same time the collaboration with foreign military academies is becoming more intense.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Well trained military leaders are without any doubt the most important capability of the Belgian armed forces, but also a vulnerable capability. I am convinced that the officers trained and educated by the Royal Military Academy for the Belgian armed forces but also for some 20 partner nations are of very high quality. We obtain this result by keeping under control the quality of our courses, by maintaining our traditions and by respecting our values: sense of honor, self discipline, commitment, courage and respect.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I thought you had the right to know where you are and what we are doing here, but I will not take too much of your time. After all you are not here only to discover the fascinating world of our academy.

I understood that you are facing a challenging and very busy program this week. I wish you all an enjoyable and interesting General Assembly and an excellent week in our wonderful country.

After the mass celebration you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with some of our staff members, but even more important with some of our cadets.

I wish you all an inspiring evening amongst us.