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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Today is a significant day in the history of the JDF as we celebrate 47 years of service to the Nation, the birth of the First Battalion The Jamaica Regiment (1JR) and Armed Forces Day.

It was Tuesday, 31 July 1962 and Jamaica was bracing for her rebirth as an independent nation and the day when the new military formation known as the Jamaica Defence Force or simply, JDF was established. The five companies of the West India Regiment were scheduled to become Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Headquarter Companies of the First Battalion The Jamaica Regiment or 1JR. It is safe to say that the history of the Jamaica Defence Force rests in the history of 1JR.

When the Union Jack was lowered on the evening of 06 August 1962, and Jamaica was established as an independent nation, the proud members of 1JR paraded in front of Jamaica and the world for the first time. It was a gratifying moment for members of the Unit when they were given the command 'Present Arms' to tumultuous applause from the many spectators.

Ever since 1962, the brilliance of the Unit has won her the sobriquet "First and Foremost". The Unit has excelled in all areas of competence both in the Jamaica Defence Force and on the national stage. The Unit was highly commended for startling performances during the first State of Emergency in 1966 and again in the second one in 1976, a reflection of selfless leadership.

Today, apart from commemorating the birth of the JDF and 1JR in particular, we are celebrating Armed Forces Day. Armed Forces Day is not only significant to Jamaica but to other nations as well. It is held on different days throughout the world as nations recognize and venerate their military forces and service personnel.

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