



NEWS RELEASE

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MINDEF Shows Commitment To Defence On Singapore's Birthday

12 Aug 1997



Six Officer Cadets have surpassed some 1,400 top GCE "A" Level students to win the premiere Singapore Armed Force Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS) this year. These scholars have excelled academically, having sat for at least one Special Paper, as well as in their extra-curricular activities. They have also delivered outstanding performance during their Officer Cadet course. Proven of their capability to perform and lead, these six scholars will join the rank of 181 others to be systematically groomed for top management positions in the military and the Ministry.

MINDEF strongly believes that quality manpower is a key factor in ensuring that the SAF achieves and maintains first-class standards. As such, the SAFOS, second only to the President Scholarship, has one of the most stringent eligibility criteria. Such stringent criteria is deliberately set so that the SAF attracts and retains the best talents into the organisation.

SAFOS recipients are not only given ample opportunities to be groomed for top management positions, they are also trained to perform in a combat situation and command men into battle. The training and development provided to these scholars and the discipline and leadership qualities that are instilled in these scholars ensure that they are well-equipped and capable in assuming key positions in the Administrative Service, other civil service sector or even the private sector.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, met with SAF's six SAFOS recipients at Temasek Club, Portsdown Road, this afternoon, 12 Aug 97, and

presented them with Certificates of Award, Officer Appointment Certificates and Ceremonial Swords. Of the six scholars, three are from the Army, two are from the Republic of Singapore Navy and one from the Republic of Singapore Air Force. They will leave for the United States or United Kingdom over the next few weeks to pursue their tertiary education. Particulars of this year's SAFOS recipients are attached.

The SAF Overseas Scholarships

The SAF Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS) was introduced in 1971 with the aim of searching for and attracting and training the best talents to serve in MINDEF and the SAF. This Scholarship however does not limit the career paths of these scholars to just MINDEF and the SAF. Under the Dual Career Scheme, which was introduced in 1981, SAFOS scholars are given the opportunity to serve in the prestigious Administration Service as well as in other Ministries and Statutory Boards.

The training that SAF overseas scholars undergo prepares them not only to assume top management positions in the SAF, but also to perform and excel in other areas of public service and in the private sector. SAFOS recipients have consistently performed well both in public service as well as in the private sector.

Of the 5,000 male students who sit for the GCE "A" levels each year, the top 1,400 will be selected for officer cadet training. Among these officer cadets, about 30 will qualify for the SAFOS selection and ultimately, only the best six to eight candidates will have made it through the rigorous selection process to win the scholarship.

The selected scholars will receive a monthly maintenance allowance and an annual book allowance. They will also be paid a full officer's salary during their course of studies. These scholars are placed on pensionable service at the point when they leave for their studies and will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant after the first year of studies. Upon graduation, they will be promoted to the rank of Captain.

Present at the presentation ceremony this afternoon included the Permanent secretary (Defence), Mr Eddie Teo the Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Peter Ho parents and junior college principals of the six overseas scholars.

S/N	Name/Service	Junior College	Course/University
1.	OCT Goh Si Hou	Hwa Chong Junior College	Economics/University of Cambridge, UK
	Army		
2.	OCT Tan Cheng Kwee	Hwa Chong Junior College	Civil Engineering/ University of Illinois, USA
	Army		
3.	OCT Chang Yi Chian	Raffles Junior College	Economics/University of Pennsylvania, USA
	Army		

4.	OCT Chua Lu Fong	Raffles Junior College	Economics/ University of Pennsylvania, USA
	Navy		
5.	OCT Ang Chee Wee	Raffles Junior College	Electronic and Engineering/ Massachusetts Institute of Technology
	Navy		
6.	OCT Teh Hua Fung	Raffles Junior College	
	Air Force		

* OCT - Officer Cadet



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