



SPEECH

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Speech by Brigadier-General (BG) Jimmy Khoo, Director of Joint Operations and Planning Directorate (DJOPD), at the Homecoming Ceremony of the SAF Medical Team From Bengkulu, Sumatra Held at Paya Lebar Air Base on 17 Jun 00, 1:00 PM

16 Jun 2000

Good afternoon, Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Singapore Armed Forces, it is my pleasure to welcome home the members of the SAF Medical Team, upon the successful completion of their mission in Bengkulu, West Sumatra.

Among the returning participants are two NSMen and nine NSF's. Your participation in this mission, alongside your regular counterparts, is a reflection of the SAF's professionalism and high level of operational readiness.

Once again, the SAF was activated at short notice and we responded swiftly. This was possible only because of the unstinting support of everyone here. I would like to thank the units and employers for releasing the members of the team. I would especially like to thank the families as this is also the mid-year school holiday period, a time normally set aside for family holidays.

Our quick response to the Indonesian government's request for international humanitarian aid, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, exemplifies our neighbourliness and our commitment to help where we can.

Throughout the period, the SAF team worked very closely with the professional TNI forces, as well as the local authorities. We hope the team had contributed to the international effort to alleviate the plight of the Bengkulu earthquake victims. The team treated about 600 patients during the 10 days in Bengkulu.

I would also like to record my appreciation and thanks to the RSAF, especially officers and men of 121 and 122 Squadron who have continuously provided the strategic lift capability to ferry SAF troops and supplies swiftly to contingency situations such as Bengkulu.

Finally, I congratulate all members of the SAF Medical Team for a job well done. I wish you and your families a pleasant Father's Day weekend. Thank you.

Notes:

Total nos returning = 27 pax

6 MOs, 10 Medics, 4 Drivers = 20 pax

Msn Comd, 2 LOs, 2 Sigs, 1 Auto M/Tech & 1 Dr Teo KJ = 7 pax.

News Release:

- Homecoming of SAF Medical Team (Document No: MINDEF_20000616096)

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