



SPEECH

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Speech by Chief of Defence Force Major-General Desmond Kuek at the Change of Command Parade

23 Mar 2007

Minister for Defence Mr Teo Chee Hean, Minister for Manpower and 2nd Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen, Permanent Secretaries, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Warriors in the SAF, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to join LG Ng Yat Chung in thanking all of you for your presence this afternoon to witness this changeover in SAF leadership. Let me also express my appreciation to the men and women on parade today for an outstanding turnout.

Under the able leadership of LG Ng Yat Chung, the SAF has achieved much. In his 4-year tenure as the Chief of Defence Force, LG Ng raised the operational readiness of the SAF and steered the transformation of the Third Generation SAF. The high level of readiness and capability we have attained has allowed the SAF to respond swiftly and decisively to a range of operations, including inter-agency efforts to secure Singapore against global terrorism, maintain maritime security, and assist in humanitarian and disaster relief operations in our region when called upon to do so. Under LG Ng, the SAF has become a more integrated force, and is well positioned on its first spiral of networked capabilities. LG Ng will also be remembered for his unwavering efforts to champion organizational learning in the SAF. He has been instrumental in fostering a more open and conducive learning culture, with strong emphasis on growing the knowledge repositories that are vital for success in our complex operating environment.

LG Ng will be retiring from active service after 28 years of distinguished service, and on behalf of everyone in the SAF, I would like to thank him for his leadership and legacy in the SAF, and to wish him all the very best in his new endeavours. The SAF will continue on its journey towards a Third Generation full spectrum force, one that is integrated, networked, cohesive and focused in its mission to deter threats to Singapore's security and sovereignty; and should deterrence fail, to effect a swift and decisive victory. To do so, we will continue to maintain a high level of operational readiness against any contingencies; we will lead and train our soldiers, sailors and airmen well; and we will operationalise new capabilities in integrated knowledge command and control systems, precision strike and unmanned warfare - all as part of the one integrated SAF that we envision. Our servicemen will be nurtured to develop new competencies, and we will engage our people intellectually, emotionally and professionally to strengthen their commitment to the defence of Singapore and to excellence in all that we do in the SAF.

It shall be my honour and privilege to work with all of you, leading the SAF on this next step forward.

Thank you.

News Release:

- New Chief for the SAF (MINDEF_20070323001_1.pdf)

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