



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SAF Sportspersons Honoured

06 Aug 1996

The Singapore Armed Forces' best sportsperson and teams were honoured during the Singapore Armed Forces Sports Association's (SAFSA) annual Sportspersons Dinner this evening, 6 Aug 96, at the Orchard Hotel. The Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General (LT-GEN) Bey Soo Kiang presented the annual awards to the top sportspersons, coaches, officials and teams from SAFSA, in recognition of their outstanding performance, active participation and contributions to sports in 1995/1996.

The top three awards were presented to the following outstanding sports personalities:

a. Best Sportsman Award: First Sergeant (NS) Ronald Tan Kim Huat (Fencing)

1SG (NS) Tan, 37 is no stranger to the Best Sportsman Award, having won it six years ago in workyear 89/90 when he was with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF). This year, he excelled to clinch the award again for the second time. Presently a National fencer and an associate member of SAFSA, he achieved excellence in the local sporting scene by capturing the National Individual Championship and the Singapore Open Championship in both the Foil and Epee events. Other than his individual success, he has also assisted SAFSA in defending the Pesta Sukan Team Championship for three consecutive years, from 1993 to 1995. On winning his latest award, 1SG (NS) Tan said, "It came as a total surprise. I really appreciate the award. It goes to show that my efforts have been recognised."

b. Best Team Award: Fencing (Epee) Team

The SAFSA Epee team has been awarded the SAFSA Best Team award for their consistent performance in the Pesta Sukan National Team Championship. In this event, points are scored by a fencer when contact is established between his weapon and his opponent's body. The same three members have managed to show consistency in successfully defending the title for three consecutive years, from 1993 to 1995. Arguably their hardest battle to date, the

SAFSA team of two National representatives and one ex-National fencer, faced a much younger National team in the finals of the Pesta Sukan team championship last year. These two teams matched each other point for point until the very end, when the experience and determination of the SAFSA team led it to victory. Concerning the title match, team member SSG Lee Teck Heng commented, "This is definitely one of the most exciting matches in these three years. It was tough, yet we won."

#### c. Best Formation Award: The Guards Formation

This is the second consecutive year that the Guards have won the Best Formation Award. Fifteen formations took part in a total of 15 events (see attached list) to vie for this award. The Guards accumulated 151 points out of a possible 187 points from the various events to take the Championship, finishing just four points ahead of the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The Guards were also champions in the Hockey and Rugby competitions.

LT-GEN Bey presented mementos of appreciation to 10 companies which have contributed to the success of various SAFSA teams in national competitions by sponsoring them during the year. Mementos were also given to the 12 Out-going Chairmen of the SAFSA Games Committee, as well as the Out-going Chairman of the SAFSA Management Committee, Rear-Admiral (RET) Kwek Siew Jin. Attached is the list of the Out-going Chairmen of the SAFSA Games Committee.

The Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral Richard Lim, Chairman of the SAFSA Management Committee, presented the annual SAFSA "Colours Awards" to 63 sportspersons and officials. These awards are given for sporting excellence and outstanding contributions to sports in the past year.

SAFSA was formed in 1968 to promote recreational, competitive sporting and social activities among its member as well as to support sporting activities at the national level. The SAF's commitment to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle and sports in Singapore is reflected in SAFSA's active participation in national competitions.