



NEWS RELEASE

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More Warrant Officers and Specialists Promoted

26 Jun 1997

The number of Warrant Officers (WO) and Specialists promoted has increased by about 11% over the last year. This is in line with the WO and Specialist 21 Development Masterplan that was launched earlier this year where various schemes to enhance the careers of WOs and Specialists were unveiled. Among them was the need to provide fair and timely recognition. As a result, promotion time norm has been reviewed so that outstanding WOs and Specialists with high potential can be promoted faster. Other schemes included better pay, ITE sponsorship and academic upgrading schemes, schemes to upgrade skills and smooth transition into a second career for retirees.

In recognition for their contribution to the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), 226 Army, Navy and Air Force personnel from the Corps of Warrant Officers were promoted this evening, 26 Jun 97. They received their Letters of Promotion from the Education Minister and Second Minister for Defence, Rear Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean, at the annual WOs' Promotion Ceremony, held at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF), Gombak Drive. The promotions take effect from 1 Jul 97.

WOs play a vital role in the overall MINDEF and SAF structure as middle managers, serving as a crucial link between senior management and the men on the ground. Their job scope is extensive and may cover the areas of Manpower, Logistics, Intelligence, Training and Operations, as opposed to the traditional duties of regimentation and discipline. WOs who show potential can hold staff and instructional appointments with the establishment ranks of up to Major. Some of these employment include that of the Platoon Commander, Deputy Manpower Officer, Course Commander, Training Coordinator and Officer Commanding of a Training Company. This reflects the many unique, challenging and satisfying careers that the SAF can provide to those who become WOs.

The training that they receive to become effective middle managers is extensive. They

constantly go through upgrading courses to attain the relevant skills and training in their jobs. WOs and Specialists are given the opportunity to pursue ITE studies under various sponsorship schemes, such as pursuing full-time studies while receiving full pay. These sponsorship programmes are in line with the national effort to continually upgrade worker's skills and also reflect MINDEF's commitment to preparing its service personnel for second careers through skill and educational upgrading.

10 Master Warrant Officers (MWOs) will be promoted to the rank of Senior Warrant Officers (SWOs). They are Balvinder Singh, Choo Thiam Fook, Leong Kum Seng, Lim Kwee Seng, Poon Boon Pew, Soh Chye Ker, Soudagar Singh, Teo Hak Bak, Connie Yee Ah Kiew and Yeo Boon How. The SWO is the highest rank in the Corps of Warrant Officers. There are presently 22 SWOs serving the SAF.

The Warrant Officers Corps

The WOs Corps was established following a restructuring of non-officer ranks in the SAF in Jul 92. There are four main classes in the Corps, namely Second Warrant Officer (2WO), First Warrant Officer (1WO), MWO and SWO. The table attached provides details of the promotion of these WOs, by rank and service.

141 Staff Sergeants (SSGs) and Master Sergeants (MSGs) will be promoted to the rank of 2WO upon graduation from the Joint Warrant Officers Course (JWOC). The Graduation Ceremony will be held at the SAF Warrant Officers' School on 2 Jul. These are individuals who showed strong leadership traits and hence was selected to attend the four-month JWOC. Upon graduation, they will be given a warrant to execute their duties like an officer.

Among those promoted this evening were 91 servicemen and women in the Non-Uniformed SAF (NUSAF) Scheme, holding equivalent rank of WOs and Specialists.

Present at the ceremony this evening were Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Bey Soo Khiong; Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Peter Ho; Chiefs of Army, Air Force and Navy; Senior Commanders, Senior WOs and the spouses of the promotees.

	Army	Republic of Singapore Air Force	Republic of Singapore Navy	DMO, LEO, DSO and DPD*	National Service	Total
MWO/NA2 to SWO/NA1 Promotion	6	2	1	1	0	10

1WO/NA3 to MWO/NA2Promotion	26	3	0	0	0	29
2WO/NA4 to 1WO/NA3Promotion	82	25	11	0	1	119
SSG/MSG to 2WOPromotion	87	38	16	0	0	141
NB2/B1 to NA4 Promotion	48	13	3	4	0	68
Total	249	81	30	5	1	367

*DMO - Defence Materials Organisation

LEO - Land and Estate Organisation

DSO - Defence Science Organisation

DPD - Defence Procurement Division

RANK STRUCTURE FOR SPECIALISTS (in ascending order)

Private / NC3

Lance Corporal / NC2

Corporal / NC1

Third Sergeant / NB5

Second Sergeant / NB4

First Sergeant / NB3

Staff Sergeant / NB2

Master Sergeant / NB1

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RANK STRUCTURE FOR WARRANT OFFICERS (in ascending order)

Second Warrant Officer / NA4

First Warrant Officer / NA3

Master Warrant Officer / NA2

Senior Warrant Officer / NA1