



NEWS RELEASE

Visit <http://www.mindef.gov.sg> for more news and information about MINDEF and the SAF

NS Officers Ready For Higher Command and Staff Appointments

25 Nov 1997



Dr Tan at the graduation ceremony

National Servicemen form the core of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). As a small nation, Singapore cannot afford to take security for granted. The maintenance of a highly trained and highly operational citizen's army is crucial towards ensuring Singapore's continued peace, stability and progress. The SAF recognises the need to constantly train and upgrade the knowledge and skills of this core group.

The SAF selects National Service (NS) officers with potential for higher positions for the National Service Officers' Command Course (NSOCC) and National Service Officers' Staff Course (NSOSC). These courses are conducted annually by the premiere Singapore Command and Staff College (SCSC). The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, presented certificates to this year's graduands at a graduation ceremony held at SAFTI this evening, 25 Nov 97. 52 Operationally Ready National Service (NS) officers from the Army and the Navy are now ready to take on higher command and staff appointments in SAF.

27 of the officers were from the NSOCC and 25 from the NSOSC. All but four are from the Army. Dr Tan also presented awards to the following students:

a. NSOSC

Top student - CPT (Dr) Kenneth Mak
Best in Military Knowledge - CPT (Dr) Tan Bien Soo
Top Student (Navy) - MAJ (NS) Rohan Hari Chandra

b. NSOCC

Top Student and
Best in Military Knowledge - CPT (NS) Ng Mong Seng

NSOCC/NSOSC

Annually, the SCSC conducts the Command and Staff courses for NS officers. NS officers who demonstrate potential for higher command and staff appointments are groomed in these courses. Prior to this, they will attend different courses conducted by the respective schools depending on their vocation. These courses include the Battalion Tactics Course, the Brigade Intelligence Staff Course, the Advanced Logistics Course and the Advanced Medical Course.

The NS officers will undergo two phases of training. The first phase is an eight-month correspondence course and the second is a five-week residential phase. During the course, the NS officers are taught operational staff work, procedures and lessons on force structure, intelligence and land operations.

NS officers who graduate from these courses will be appointed battalion commanders and principal staff officers at the brigade level. Principal staff officer appointments at the brigade level include the Brigade Intelligence Officer, Brigade Manpower Officer and Brigade Logistics Officer. The Navy Officers will either be selected to be the Commanding Officer of a ship, or assume the appointment of Staff Officer in MINDEF.

Present at the graduation ceremony were the Permanent Secretary (Defence Development), Mr Peter Ho; the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Bey Soo Kiang; the Chief of Army, Major-General Han Eng Juan; the Chief of Navy, Rear Admiral Richard Lim; spouses and employers of the graduating NS officers, and senior MINDEF and SAF officials.



Archives of Singapore