



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Royal Brunei Armed Forces Commander Awarded Distinguished Service Order (Military)**

02 Feb 1999

The Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major-General (MAJ-GEN) Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abidin bin Pengiran Ahmad was conferred Singapore's highest military award, the Darjah Utama Bakti Chemerlang (Tentara) [Distinguished Service Order (Military)] by President Ong Teng Cheong at a ceremony in the Istana this morning.

MAJ-GEN Pengiran Dato Abidin, who has served as the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) since Oct 97, received the Distinguished Service Order (Military) for his active role in forging closer ties between the RBAF and the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). Under his leadership, the depth and scope of defence interactions between the RBAF and the SAF have been enhanced.

MAJ-GEN Pengiran Dato Abidin took a keen professional and personal interest in all the RBAF-SAF exercises – Maju Bersama, Bold Castle, Flaming Arrow, Air Guard and Pelican – and professional exchanges such as the RBAF-SAF Junior Officers' Interaction Programme. These activities have contributed to enriching the relationship between the SAF and the RBAF. The interactions between RBAF and SAF officers and men have also strengthened mutual understanding and camaraderie between them.

MAJ-GEN Pengiran Dato Abidin has also played a significant role in facilitating the SAF's training in Brunei. As Singapore has limited training space, SAF training in Brunei and the RBAF's excellent support and assistance have enabled the SAF to maintain its operational capability and readiness.

Before the ceremony at the Istana, MAJ-GEN Pengiran Dato Abidin paid a courtesy call on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, and met the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Bey Soo Kiang, at the Ministry of Defence.

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