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French Chief of Air Force Conferred Prestigious Military Medal

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The Chief of Staff, French Air Force, General (GEN) Jean Rannou was conferred Singapore's prestigious military award, the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) [Meritorious Service Medal (Military)] by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, in an investiture ceremony at MINDEF. The award was in appreciation of GEN Rannou's significant role in fostering excellent ties and friendship between the French Air Force (FAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF).

Under the active leadership of GEN Rannou, who assumed his current appointment in September 1995, cooperation and interaction between both air forces have increased over the last three years. Through the FAF-RSAF Air Group, a professional forum inaugurated in January 1997, the two air forces have been able to discuss issues of professional interest and identify areas of cooperation. Significant achievements arising from the Air Group included the signing of a Technical Arrangement in July 1997 which paved the way for the deployment of RSAF A4-SUs to Cazaux Air Base in France, and the FAF's deployment to Singapore to participate in the inaugural bilateral exercise, code-named Exercise Eastern Arc, both of which took place last year. These professional interactions have enabled the officers and men of the two air forces to build mutual understanding and rapport, as well as enhance the operational readiness and capability of the RSAF.

GEN Rannou also called on the Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Bey Soo Kiang, and Chief of Air Force, Major-General Raymund Ng, before the investiture ceremony today.