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15 Awarded the SAF Merit Scholarship

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Eight officers have been awarded the prestigious Singapore Armed Forces Overseas Scholarship (SAFOS) this year. These scholars have excelled both academically and in their co-curricular activities in school. They have also turned in outstanding performances during their officer cadet course. These eight scholars will join the ranks of 218 others before them.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, presented the eight SAFOS recipients with Certificates of Award at Temasek Club this afternoon. Seven of them were also presented with their ceremonial swords. Four of the eight scholars are from the Army, two are from the Republic of Singapore Air Force, and two are from the Republic of Singapore Navy. One of these scholars has also been conferred the 2001 President's Scholarship. All eight scholars will leave for the United States or United Kingdom to pursue their tertiary education.

The Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) strongly believes that quality manpower is pivotal in ensuring that the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) achieves and maintains first-class standards. As the most prestigious scholarship after the President's Scholarship, the SAFOS has one of the most stringent selection criteria. These strict criteria are deliberately established so that

the SAF attracts the best and the brightest of each cohort of school-leavers to join the organisation.

SAFOS recipients are given ample opportunities to be groomed for the highest levels of command and leadership positions. They will also take on a variety of challenging appointments, which will stretch their potential to the fullest. With the heavy emphasis that MINDEF places on talent grooming and management, there is even a committee chaired by top management that oversees talent management policy. The training and development provided to these scholars, as well as the discipline and leadership qualities that are inculcated in them, ensure that they are well-equipped and capable of assuming key positions in the SAF, as well as the Administrative Service or private sector.

The illustrious list of past SAF overseas scholars includes the Deputy Prime Minister, Brigadier-General (NS) Lee Hsien Loong; the Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, Rear-Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean; the Minister for Trade and Industry, Brigadier-General (NS) George Yeo; Minister for Health and Second Minister for Finance, Mr Lim Hng Kiang; Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology and Acting Minister for the Environment, Mr Lim Swee Say; the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Colonel (NS) Ho Meng Kit; the Chief of Defence Force (CDF), Lieutenant-General Lim Chuan Poh; the Chief of Army, Major-General Ng Yat Chung; the Chief of Air Force, Brigadier-General Lim Kim Choon; the Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral Lui Tuck Yew; Executive Vice President (Technical) of Singapore International Airline (SIA), Lieutenant-General (NS) Bey Soo Khiang; Chairman of Jurong Town Corporation and Deputy Chairman of Economic Development Board, Major-General (NS) Lim Neo Chian; Chief Executive of Land Transport Authority, Major-General (NS) Han Eng Juan; and President and Chief Executive Officer of Singapore Power Ltd, Brigadier-General (NS) Boey Tak Hap.

Witnessing the presentation ceremony this morning were the First Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Peter Ho; Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General Lim Chuan Poh; Second Permanent Secretary (Defence), Mr Peter Ong; the three service chiefs; parents and junior college principals of the eight SAF overseas scholars.



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Factsheet:

- Factsheet - SAF Overseas Scholarships (MINDEF_20010811003)

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