



NEWS RELEASE

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SAF Personnel Leave for UN Missions

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SPS meeting SAF personnel leaving for East Timor

A send-off ceremony was held for Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personnel leaving to serve in United Nations missions this afternoon. 72 servicemen will leave to serve in the United Nations Mission of Support for East Timor (UNMIST), and one officer will be serving in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The Senior Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of National Development, Associate Professor Koo Tsai Kee, officiated at the send-off ceremony held at Bedok Camp.

The 72 servicemen leaving to serve in UNMIST form the third platoon of soldiers to be deployed as combat peacekeepers in East Timor. This platoon is led by Senior Liaison Officer, Major (MAJ) Jimmy Toh. Stationed southwest of East Timor in Fohorem, the SAF Contingent performs duties such as patrolling, manning checkpoints, protecting vital installations, and maintaining peace and security. The SAF has deployed its peacekeepers in East Timor since May 2001. In response to the UN's request, we have extended our deployment till November 2002.

Lieutenant-Colonel (LTC) Adam Hamzah will be deployed as a Military Observer in one of the field sites in UNMEE. He will replace LTC Soon Yoo Ker who has been serving in UNMEE since Jan 2001.

Singapore has been consistently supporting the efforts of the UN in its peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Since 1989, more than 1200 SAF and other Singaporean personnel have participated in such missions. The SAF has been involved in the UN peacekeeping mission in East Timor since Sep 1999, and in UNMEE since Jan 2001. Currently, the SAF is also involved in the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM).



SPS affixing the state flag insignia for LTC Adam Hamzah (Military Observer, UNMEE)

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