



# NEWS RELEASE

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## SAF Personnel Leave for UN Mission

28 Sep 2002



DPM viewing one of the UH-1H Helicopter slated for deployment to Timor-Leste

A send-off ceremony was held for 238 Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) personnel leaving to serve with the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET) Peacekeeping Force this afternoon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan, officiated at the send-off ceremony held at SAFTI Military Institute. The ceremony was witnessed by family members of the personnel as well as senior MINDEF and SAF officers.

A company of combat peacekeepers, consisting of 160 servicemen from the Army led by Major (MAJ) Foo Chek Boon, will be deployed in the south-western district of Kova Lima from Oct 2002. They include volunteer Full-time National Servicemen (NSFs) and Operationally-Ready National Servicemen (NSmen). The company will serve as part of the composite Thai Battalion for a period of up to one year.

The SAF will also be deploying a Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) detachment of four UH-1H helicopters for up to one year, also from Oct 2002. This detachment will be based in Suai, in south-western Timor-Leste. Commanded by MAJ Sunny Yun, the detachment comprises 72 servicemen, including pilots, aircrew, technicians and other support staff, two of whom are volunteer NSmen.

In addition, six Army and RSAF servicemen will be leaving to serve in various staff positions

in the Peacekeeping Force Headquarters (HQ) and Sector West HQ. The company of peacekeepers, the helicopter detachment and the staff officers will be deployed to Timor-Leste with the support of the RSAF and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).

These deployments are being made in response to requests from the UN. Singapore has been participating in peacekeeping efforts in Timor-Leste since 1999, when three RSN Landing Ship Tanks and a RSAF C-130 were deployed to support the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET). Singapore also contributed medical teams, military staff officers and civilian policemen. Since May 2001, a platoon of combat peacekeepers has also been deployed in Timor-Leste.

Singapore has been consistently supporting the efforts of the UN in its peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Since 1989, more than 1,200 SAF and other Singaporean personnel have participated in UN missions. Singapore's participation reflects our support for the principles of the UN Charter and for the role the UN plays in maintaining international peace and security.



MAJ Foo Chek Boon, Officer commanding CTF receiving the state flag insignia from DPM

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