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President Nathan Confers Top Military Award on Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces

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President S R Nathan confers Singapore's highest military award, the Distinguished Service Order (Military), on Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, GEN Surayud Chulanont.

The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF), General (GEN) Surayud Chulanont, was conferred Singapore's highest military award, the Darjah Utama Bakti Cemerlang (Tentera), or Distinguished Service Order (Military), by President S R Nathan at an investiture ceremony at the Istana today.

The Distinguished Service Order (Military) was awarded to GEN Surayud for his significant role in forging closer ties between the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the RTARF. Under his leadership, the RTARF has continued to provide valuable support for SAF exercises in Thailand. Through GEN Surayud's encouragement, professional interactions between the two armed forces have increased in scope and depth. The SAF and the RTARF engage in a broad spectrum of bilateral and multilateral activities, including military exercises and professional exchange programmes. Such interactions have helped to promote understanding and camaraderie among the officers and men of the SAF and the RTARF.

Those present at the investiture included Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan; Minister, Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lee Yock Suan; Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, RADM (NS) Teo Chee Hean; Minister of State for Defence, Mr Cedric Foo; Chief of Defence Force, Major-General Ng Yat Chung, and senior government and military officials from both countries.

GEN Surayud is on a three-day official visit to Singapore from 24 to 26 July 2003. Earlier today, he called upon Dr Tan and Major-General Ng.



The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, GEN Surayud Chulanont, reviews the Guard-of-Honour at MINDEF.



The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, GEN Surayud Chulanont, calls on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Dr Tony Tan at MINDEF.



The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, GEN Surayud, inspects the Guard-of-Honour at the Istana.

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