



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Thai Air Force Chief Receives Prestigious Military Award

13 Dec 2003



Minister for Defence Rear Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean (R) shakes the hand of Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Kongsak Vantana (L) in MINDEF 13 December 2003. ACM Kongsak was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (Military) in recognition of his role in fostering closer ties between the Thai and Singapore air forces.

## National Archives of Singapore

In recognition of the significant role he has played in fostering close ties between the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), the Commander-in-Chief of the RTAF, Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Kongsak Vantana, was conferred Singapore's prestigious military award, the Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera) [Meritorious Service Medal (Military)]. Minister for Defence, Rear-Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean, presented the award to ACM Kongsak this morning.

ACM Kongsak has been instrumental in deepening and broadening the scope of the existing interactions between the two air forces. With his personal leadership and commitment, the RTAF has continued to provide invaluable support for the RSAF's training and participation in exercises in Thailand. ACM Kongsak's dynamism in promoting new initiatives has also brought relations between the two Air Forces to a higher level. The RSAF has gained

significant professional benefits from the expansion of longstanding interactions such as Exercise Cope Tiger. The broad spectrum of bilateral and multilateral interactions has also enabled the steady development of mutual understanding and camaraderie between the officers and men of the two Air Forces.

Earlier today, ACM Kongsak called on Minister Teo and Chief of Defence Force Major-General (MG) Ng Yat Chung. He also met his counterpart, Chief of Air Force, MG Lim Kim Choon. On 15 Dec 03, ACM Kongsak will co-officiate at the opening ceremony of Exercise Cope Tiger, an annual trilateral exercise between the RTAF, RSAF and the United States Air Force.



Minister for Defence Rear Admiral (NS) Teo Chee Hean (L) confers the Meritorious Service Medal (Military) on the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force Air Chief Marshal Kongsak Vantana (C) in MINDEF 13 December 2003. He was given the award in recognition for his role in forging closer ties between the Thai and Singapore air forces.

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