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Six SAF Servicemen Receive Commemorative Medal for Peacekeeping Operations from the Netherlands

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Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Alvin Chan receiving the Commemorative Medal for Peacekeeping Operations from the Commander of Task Force Uruzgan, Brigadier-General (BG) Kees van den Heuvel.

Six Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) servicemen have been awarded the Commemorative Medal for Peacekeeping Operations by the Netherlands Minister of Defence for their contributions towards the multinational stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. They are the SAF Contingent Commander in Uruzgan Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Alvin Chan, former SAF Contingent Commander in Uruzgan LTC Dinesh Vasu Dash who served in Uruzgan from Nov 2009 to Jul 2010, and four members of an SAF surgical team- team leader Major (MAJ) (DR) Muhammad Idu, MAJ (DR) Mathew Cheng, MAJ (NS) (DR) Philip Iau and CPT (NS) (DR) Tan Wah Tze - all of whom served in a field hospital in Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan, from Apr to May this year. LTC Chan received the medals from the Commander of Task Force Uruzgan, Brigadier-General (BG) Kees van den Heuvel, on behalf of the five other servicemen in a medal presentation ceremony held in Afghanistan yesterday (Singapore time).

The four medal recipients from the SAF surgical team were commended for their outstanding work and close cooperation with the Dutch surgical team at the field hospital in Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan. The team provided surgical and medical support to the International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF) personnel deployed there, as well as emergency medical care for the Afghan locals. Surgical team leader MAJ (DR) Muhammad Idu said, "We feel honoured to receive this medal from the Netherlands Ministry of Defence. Working with the Dutch surgical team was a very memorable and enriching experience for us as they were very professional in their work and compassionate towards those whom they treated. Through our time together in Afghanistan, we have also become very good friends."

The SAF has deployed medical and surgical teams with the NAF in Uruzgan since 2008.



MAJ (NS) (DR) Mathew Cheng and a member of the Dutch surgical team attending to a young patient in the field hospital in Tarin Kowt, Uruzgan.

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